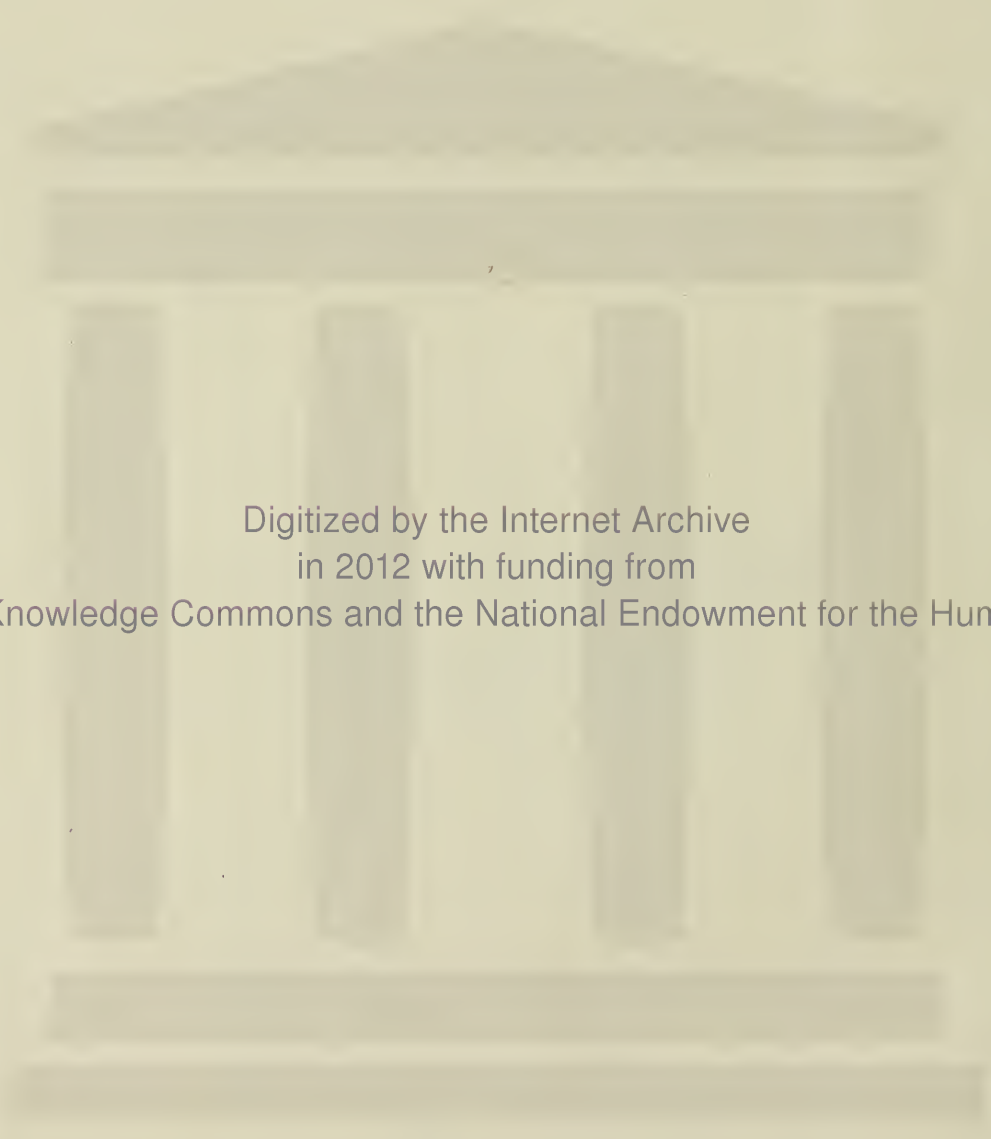




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THE  
AMERICAN JOURNAL  
OF  
HOMŒOPATHY.

EDITED BY

S. R. KIRBY, M. D.

AND

R. A. SNOW, M. D..

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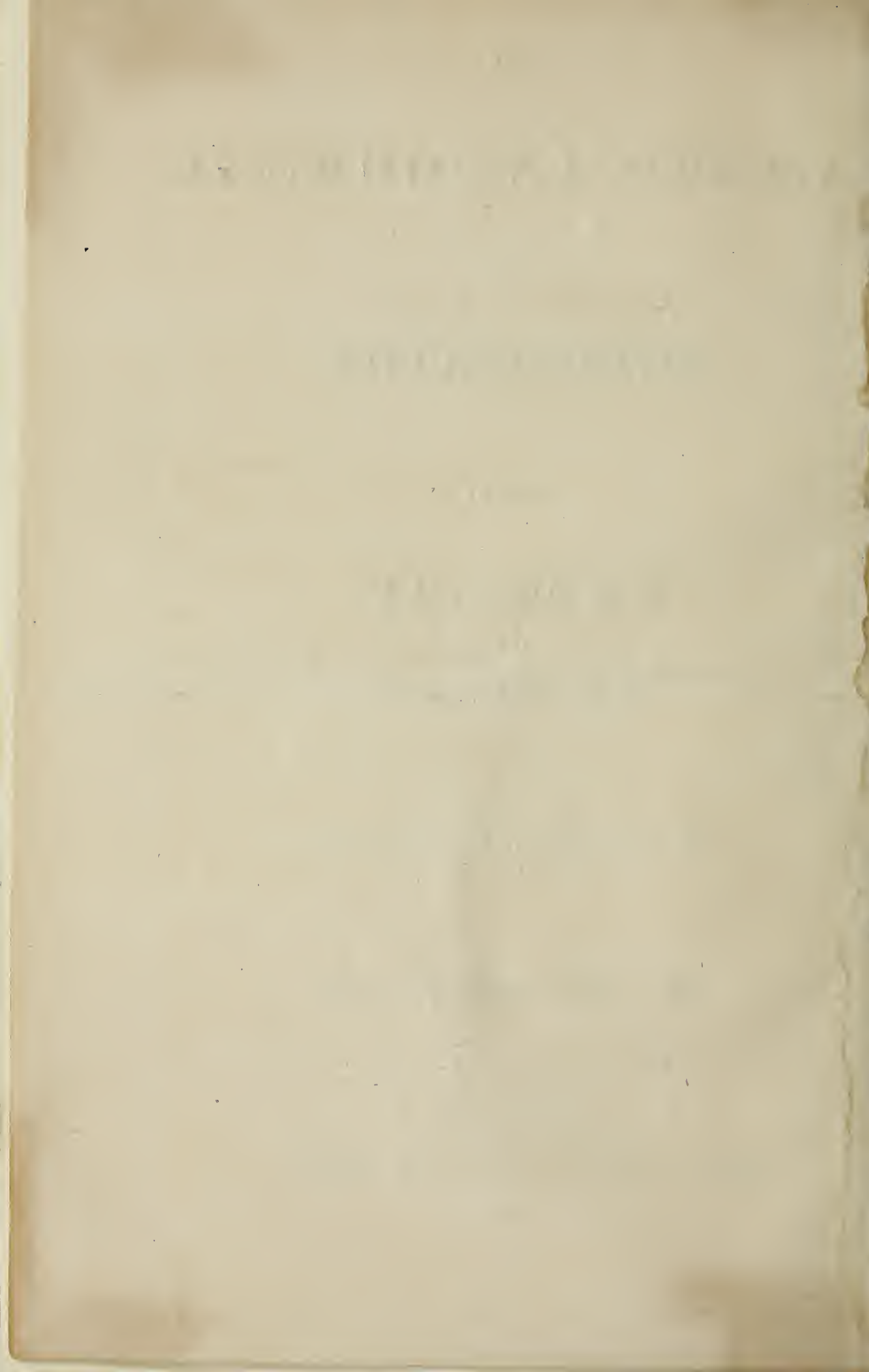
"The agitation of thought is the beginning of truth."

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42  
VOL. I. (*Semi-monthly*,) \$1 A YEAR.

NEW YORK:  
CHAS. G. DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN STREET.

1847.



## CONTENTS OF VOL. I.

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<p>Arsenic in Dropsy . . . . . 8</p> <p>Allopathic Materia Medica . . . . . 103</p> <p>Attenuations, power of . . . . . 185</p> <p>Apoplexy . . . . . 206</p> <p>Anonymous writers . . . . . 211</p> <p>Abscess of breast . . . . . 258</p> <p>Allopathic School of Medicine . . . . . 258</p> <p>Attenuation of drugs . . . . . 9, 40</p> <p>Blisters, death by . . . . . 18</p> <p>British Homœopathic Society . . . . . 199</p> <p>Bromine in Croup . . . . . 291</p> <p>Bichromate of Potash in Croup . . . . . 14</p> <p>Backus, Dr., review of . . . . . 4</p> <p>Cholera in Russia . . . . . 61</p> <p>Catarrh, chronic . . . . . 63</p> <p>Children, mortality of . . . . . 81, 93</p> <p>Coup de soleil . . . . . 137</p> <p>Croup, water cure of . . . . . 138</p> <p>Croup, by E. Bayard, M.D. . . . . 232</p> <p>Cholera in India . . . . . 148</p> <p>Correspondence with Dr. Forbes, 149, 163 175, 255.</p> <p>Cookery, Manual of . . . . . 164</p> <p>Constipation . . . . . 257</p> <p>Children, treatment of . . . . . 281</p> <p>Communication from Dr. C. N. Dake . . . . . 295</p> <p>Communication from the Author of "Ho- mœopathia Revealed" . . . . . 52</p> <p>Dispensary at Manchester . . . . . 7</p> <p>Dispensary at New York city . . . . . 7, 55, 286</p> <p>Drugs, caution in use of . . . . . 21, 88</p> <p>Dysentery, case of . . . . . 54</p> <p>Drugs, trials of . . . . . 56</p> <p>Drugs, effects of . . . . . 102</p> <p>Disease, laws of . . . . . 54, 60, 77, 87, 112</p> <p>Disease, causes of . . . . . 125, 147, 161</p> <p>Disease, predisposition to . . . . . 135</p> <p>Disease, Allopathic treatment of . . . . . 239, 250</p>	<p>Disease, nature of . . . . . 171, 205, 218, 228</p> <p>Disease, symptoms of . . . . . 183, 192</p> <p>Diseases of Children, 172, 182, 196, 207, 219, 230.</p> <p>Doses, repetition of . . . . . 163</p> <p>Difficulty of introducing new sciences, 178, 191, 208.</p> <p>Diarrhœa, chronic . . . . . 140</p> <p>Errors exposed . . . . . 90</p> <p>False issues . . . . . 177</p> <p>Homœopathic Examiner . . . . . 8</p> <p>Homœopathic Pioneer . . . . . 16</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">" Materia Medica . . . . . 20</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">" doctrine, 29, 42, 69, 91, 103, 114</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">" regimen . . . . . 288</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">" Coffee . . . . . 211, 295</p> <p>Homœopathy, American Institute of, 9, 30, 295</p> <p>Homœopathy, Allopathy, &amp;c., by J. M. Quin, M.D. . . . . 11, 23, 35</p> <p>Homœopathy, knowledge of . . . . . 13</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">" examined . . . . . 48</p> <p>Homœopathia revealed . . . . . 25</p> <p>Do. objections considered . . . . . 1, 10, 22</p> <p>Do. Am. Jour. of . . . . . 8, 20, 80, 151, 283</p> <p>Do. going down . . . . . 22</p> <p>Do. transactions of Am. Inst. of . . . . . 29</p> <p>Do. true principle, &amp;c., 89, 94, 110, 117, 132, 144, 158, 168.</p> <p>Do. concise view of . . . . . 104</p> <p>Do. disapproves of bleeding . . . . . 106, 118</p> <p>Do. progressive . . . . . 129, 141, 153</p> <p>Do. disapproves of the derivative method 138</p> <p>Do. do. external applications . . . . . 142</p> <p>Do. supersedes the necessity of many sur- gical operations . . . . . 143</p> <p>Do. disapproves the use of mineral waters 156</p> <p>Do. objections to refuted . . . . . 189, 202, 215, 226</p> <p>Do. and Allopathy compared, by Dr. Rosa 236</p>
---	--

Homœopathia, by B. F. Bowers, M.D. . . . .	56	Medicine, rival schools of . . . . .	259
Do. contrasted with medicine . . . . .	72	Medication, a case of excessive . . . . .	16
Do. obstacles to progress of . . . . .	165	Medical Institute, London . . . . .	53
Do. in Ohio . . . . .	64, 66	Medical correspondence, review of . . . . .	121
Do. in South America . . . . .	79	Medicine, reform in . . . . .	253
Do. in Vienna . . . . .	80	Materia Medica . . . . .	33, 155
Do. in University of Berlin . . . . .	19	Matter of contagion . . . . .	258
Do. in Michigan . . . . .	99, 100, 233	Morphine, death by . . . . .	19
Do. in Syracuse . . . . .	113	Modern empiricism . . . . .	57
Do. in New York city . . . . .	114		
Do. in Western New York . . . . .	116, 194	Nature's law of cure . . . . .	65
Do. in Washington City . . . . .	185	Nitrate of Silver . . . . .	19
Do. in Austria . . . . .	220	Natrum Muriaticum . . . . .	78
Do. in Wisconsin . . . . .	244	N. Y. Dental Recorder . . . . .	127
Do. in Arkansas . . . . .	292	N. Y. Academy of Medicine, 221, 235, 256, 278, 293.	
Hahnemann on Coffee, 173, 186, 198, 209, 222, 234.		N. Y. Pathological Society . . . . .	235
Do. and Homœopathy . . . . .	62	N. Y. Homœopathic Pharmacy . . . . .	283
Do. correspondence . . . . .	86, 98, 115		
Do. on Disease . . . . .	197	Profession, senior members of . . . . .	7
Do. practice of . . . . .	201, 213, 225, 237, 249, 261	Prussic Acid, by Dr. J. S. Ware, . . . . .	126
Hartmann on acute diseases . . . . .	259	Practice, Allopathic and Homœopathic, points of difference between . . . . .	130
Humphreys' reply to Hempel . . . . .	244	Prize Memoirs . . . . .	295
High Potences, 124, 133, 145, 151, 159, 169, 179, 195.			
Health, laws of . . . . .	14, 23, 43,	Rhus Radicans . . . . .	92
Henderson, Wm., M.D. . . . .	7	" " use of, by Dr. Barlow . . . . .	100
Do. reply to Forbes . . . . .	20, 37	" " case cured with . . . . .	101
Hydrophobia . . . . .	52	Rheumatism, case of cure of . . . . .	152
Horses, treatment of . . . . .	151	Reported cases, by Dr. Kirby . . . . .	162
		Reported cases, utility of . . . . .	221
Introduction . . . . .	1	Reports of cases . . . . .	135
Idiosyncrasy . . . . .	59, 79	Report of N. Y. Hom. Dispensary . . . . .	286
Imperceptible agents, action of . . . . .	84, 96		
Joslin's, B. F., M.D., Address before Homœopathic Physicians' Society . . . . .	45	Strychnia, poisoning by . . . . .	3
" Address before N. Y. Homœopathic Society . . . . .	263	Symphitum officinale . . . . .	127
Jahr's New Manual . . . . .	259, 283, 295	Symptoms, nature of . . . . .	167, 181
		Skin, diseases of . . . . .	243, 251
Lungs, tubercles in . . . . .	7	Stearns, Dr., and N. Y. Academy . . . . .	278, 293
Letheon . . . . .	199, 235	Small doses of Allopathy . . . . .	105
Medicine, want of positive knowledge . . . . .	8	Selection of remedies . . . . .	71
Do. Art of . . . . .	28		
Medicines, proving of . . . . .	64, 66, 73	Tetanus, case of . . . . .	111
		Therapeutic Pocket Book . . . . .	236, 248
		Traumatic Tetanus . . . . .	282
		To our Readers . . . . .	285
		Weiting, Dr., Lectures by . . . . .	20
		Whooping-cough . . . . .	29



# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. I. New York, Saturday, April 25, 1846. NO. 1.

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D. AND R. A. SNOW, M. D., EDITORS.

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This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1846.

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## INTRODUCTION.

The doctrines taught by Hahnemann have met with a favorable reception in this country, and the principles established by him in the art of medicine are becoming known and acknowledged.

The practice of Homœopathy is superseding all other modes of cure or treatment of disease.

Converts from among the educated members of the medical profession are numerous and increasing.

In every city and town the new practice is rapidly gaining popularity and support, especially among the most intelligent portion of our population.

Consequently, the time has arrived when a Journal, devoted to the propagation of the principles of Homœopathy, a record of its advancement and success in this country, and a medium for the interchange of views and sentiments of practitioners and communications of new facts or important cases of cure, is not only demanded, but may be made of great utility to the profession and to the public.

This publication will be emphatically "An American Journal"—will be made popular in its character, and interesting to the general

reader; for we believe that, to establish in the public mind the fact of the existence of a great law of cure for diseases, a fundamental principle for the administration of remedies, will do more than anything, and what nothing else can do, to place the healing art upon a firm and enduring basis, and secure to the medical profession the respect and confidence of the community.

For this purpose we shall discuss all medical topics that may have any bearing upon the objects had in view, or that will serve to explain or illustrate what we conceive to be established principles in medicine.

In attempting this, we see nothing to discourage us but the want of ability properly to sustain a matter of so great an undertaking as a reform in the healing art; but confident of the truth of the principles we advocate, satisfied with the motives that actuate us, and relying upon the generosity and support of the profession, the good will and sympathy of those already, or who may become converts to our doctrines, we shall at least hope to accomplish what we can but conceive to be reasonable to expect.

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## OBJECTIONS TO HOMŒOPATHY CONSIDERED.

That a revolution is going on in the treatment of diseases, there can be no question; that a reform is needed, no one will doubt. We may as well acknowledge the humiliating fact, that for more than two thousand years, no real improvement has been effected in the *treatment of diseases*, unless it be found in the system of Hahnemann. In truth, it is the same now as it was in the time of Hippocrates; there may be some slight variation, yet, it is essentially the same. Venesection, purgatives, emetics, &c., were employed then as now.

The doctrine of disease two thousand three hundred years ago was such that the treatment

was consistent with it; but in this day, the doctrine of disease is different, so much so, that scarcely a vestige remains of the old humoral pathology.

Now, in this we contend there is something wrong, and every well educated and experienced physician knows it.

The uncertainty of the practice of medicine is an universal lamentation throughout the entire profession, and the existence and tolerance of quack doctors and quack medicines is strong proof that the public know how little reliance can be placed in the ordinary method of treating diseases. Therefore, a reform is loudly demanded—the people demand it; and they are right, for they have the greatest interest at stake, it is their health and life which are concerned. But we ask, how shall the practice of medicine be improved? must we fight and devour one another? shall we denounce and ridicule every member of the profession who dares to suggest a change in the treatment of diseases? shall we, in the face of the strongest evidence of the fact, hoot down every physician who may declare that the administration and repetition of large doses of drugs are injurious to health, and endanger life? Is it reasonable, and will it promote the interests of the profession, for one member of it to accuse another of hypocrisy because he professes to cure the sick without emetics and cathartics? Again, the imperfections of the healing art are a fruitful theme with the professors of our medical schools; and they very properly urge their students to exertion, to contribute to the improvement of the treatment of diseases. And yet, in the face of this advice, there are professors who have denounced, as quacks, those who were their own pupils, merely because they avow their conversion to the doctrine of Hahnemann.

We are so well pleased with what Dr. Francis Black has said on this subject in his work on "The Principles and Practice of Homœopathy," that we do not hesitate to quote him. He says, "Various are the expedients fallen upon by our opponents to prejudice homœopathy in the minds of the public; a great majority trusting to misrepresentations, a few, we are forced to say, actuated by a malevolent spirit; all betraying a woful ignorance of the subject, all busily attacking, not homœopathy, but a man of straw, a system of their own creation, which, Don Quixote like, they have overthrown again and again. One of the most common modes adopted of disposing of our cures is, *to deny the facts as they are related by us*. No matter whe-

ther the facts are clearly described, not admitting of a doubt that they are such and such diseases; no matter whether they are related by men of greater experience, better informed, and quite as reputed for honesty and candor as those who deny the facts; notwithstanding all this corroborative evidence, the mere notion that they are homœopathic, that they are opposed to the ordinary mode of treatment, condemns them. The argument is just this: A. has never cured a case as H. declares he has, and therefore A. insists that it cannot be done. Is this rational or philosophical? Again, others hesitating to deny many cases of homœopathy, fall upon the happy expedient of *attributing them to the score of Diet, Nature, and Imagination*. Indeed! this may be satisfactory to them, but exceedingly inexplicable to us. What curious information this statement affords! In the 19th century, after the painful experience of three thousand years, we have learned the welcome news that all diseases can be cured by diet, nature, and imagination; nay, more, that patients who, previously under the most scientific treatment, placed in the most favorable circumstances, assailed by all the drugs of the *Materia Medica*, refused to be cured, no sooner come under the gentle sway of the homœopathist than health returns. When three such powerful allies arrange themselves under the banner of homœopathy, who, on this ground alone, would not be a homœopathist? Why the patient's imagination should be more excited while under the treatment of the homœopathist, a class of men whom he has been led to look upon with suspicion as quacks and knaves, rather than when trusting to his allopathic attendant, in whom he has implicitly confided for years, we know not.

"The diseases the homœopathist is most confident of curing, are those of children at the breast; in them no diet is employed, and surely there can be no imagination exercised by the helpless infant; it must, then, be nature; but if nature is sufficient to effect a cure, why do our opponents torture them with physic? Let such of our opponents as attribute our cures to diet, nature, and imagination, honestly examine the recorded homœopathic cures of the diseases of children, of cholera, inflammation of the lungs, of scrofular diseases, and if they can still conscientiously attribute them to diet, nature, and imagination, let them mark the dilemma into which they fall. Such avowals are simply this, that diseases, incurable by allopathy, or against which the most violent and dangerous measures are used, are cured by homœopathy, which,



agreeable to their view, is simply diet, nature, and imagination. Let them give forth to the public this much to be desired information; let them continue to preach, as virtually they do, that medicine is a humbug; but let them mark, in their blindness, that the weapon they wield against homœopathy, deals the *coup de grace* to allopathy.

"When it is found that the expedient to call homœopathic medicine nonentities, and that the cures are attributable to diet, nature, and imagination fails, another tack is taken, and the patient is assured that these same medicines are violent poisons, and that his life is in jeopardy!

"Such a statement must be seen to be absurd and contradictory by all, who for a moment consider it, and we would willingly have passed it over as an idle rumour, but that it has been asserted in our own experience by medical men, of whom we might have expected more candid statements. The simple answer to this is, with a very few exceptions, the homœopathic medicines and the allopathic are the same, and only differ in quantity. Now, if, for example, arsenic, prussic acid, mercury, opium, &c., are poisonous in homœopathic doses, how much more deadly must they be in allopathic doses, where, at a moderate average, the poison is a thousand times greater in the latter than in the former?

"How beautiful does Hahnemann remark, that God has given us iron wherewith to make the assassin's dagger or the peaceful ploughshare.

"Who uses the dagger, or who the ploughshare? he who gives grain doses, or he who gives the millionth of a grain? What inconsistency to blow hot and cold with the same breath; at one time to call the medicine trash, mere water; at another, deadly poisons.

"Another mode attempted, of refuting homœopathy is, by attributing to it imperfection and failures. Cases are quoted in which homœopathy has failed, and therefore, conclude our opponents, it must always fail. But they who condemn a system from one or fifty failures, forget that they are condemning themselves. For who that has had many patients has not lost some? And if all such are not to be condemned, the judge himself must be included in his own sentence."

(To be Continued.)

## A CASE OF POISONING BY STRYCHNIA.

In the *London Lancet* there is recorded "*a case of poisoning by strychnia*," which presents evidence of the ignorance of some allopathic physicians of the effects of this drug in the human system, and also furnishes a few pathogenetic symptoms of strychnia, which may be of use to the homœopathic physician. We here abbreviate the case, giving, however, everything essential to it. A girl, aged 13 years, swallowed three quarters of a grain of strychnia in three pills. In twenty minutes after, "she said she felt a strange sensation in her head, and became almost immediately convulsed. The arms were found extended and rigid, and also were all the muscles of her body, which was bent backwards at a considerable curve; face much flushed, and lips livid; breathing rapid and difficult, but larynx free; spasm of diaphragm very marked. Every few minutes she had a fit of general convulsions. Great fear and anxiety for relief was expressed."

This is the case; now, what was done? first, "Six ounces of blood were abstracted from the temporal artery; at this time however, the cause was not known, but when it was so, then a scruple of sulphate of zinc was given, also warm water, but vomiting did not take place for a quarter of an hour and then sparingly." After this the sufferings of the patient may be said to have increased, for it is said, "All this time the opisthotonos and universal muscular twitchings had continued violent; but now, during one of the ineffectual attempts to vomit, the rigidity of the muscles suddenly relaxed, and the spasmodic contractions ceased." In a word the patient in a few minutes died, being one hour after the strychnia had been taken. In our remarks on this case, we will say nothing about the bleeding, for that error is almost acknowledged in the report, yet it should have been more fully expressed. Our second remark is, that a homœopathic physician would not have given sulphate of zinc in this case, for experience has proved that this drug aggravates the effects of Nux-vomica, and from this fact he would have inferred a like effect in strychnia.

In the next place a homœopathic physician would have known, of which the allopathic gentleman who had charge of the above case, seemed to be entirely ignorant, that tincture

of coffee and tincture of camphor are the antidotes to strychnia, and one or both should have been given to this poor girl. We will also take occasion to notice that Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Puræ* has symptoms caused by *Nux-vomica* which resemble those of the strychnia in the above case, which fact goes to confirm, to some extent, the truthfulness of Hahnemann's observations.

### SENATOR BACKUS ON HOMŒOPATHY.

In the Senate of New York, Dr. Backus, makes an amusing report as chairman of the Committee on Medical Societies and Medical Colleges, to whom had been referred *numerous* petitions from the counties of Cayuga, Seneca, and Onondaga, praying for the establishment of a Homœopathic College at Auburn, Cayuga county. The numerous petitions above mentioned were from intelligent and worthy citizens who had witnessed the homœopathic practice in their families and among their friends and neighbors. They had seen its marked success compared with the practice of the old system. They had also seen it relieve when the latter had failed. They knew the homœopathic system to be practiced by intelligent and well educated physicians, who have studied in the same schools and received the same credentials—a diploma—as the learned Senator, Dr. Backus, has, but in addition, have studied the new system, (as the learned Senator evidently has not.) These citizens desiring to have physicians properly taught in this school in which they have witnessed so much good, that they might not be driven to the necessity of taking up the system in self-defence, and endeavoring imperfectly to practice it on themselves and their families, have applied to the Legislature in *numerous petitions* for a homœopathic College; and they were answered through Dr. Backus with a jest. Perhaps he would have been a wiser man had he paid more respect to the opinions of men who may be at least his equals—had he given his attention to the spread of the new science in this country, not among the ignorant, but among the intelligent and educated—had he informed himself of the character of some of the distinguished medical men in high positions, who have seceded from the old school to the new, in the old world, and had he learned that

large institutions have been established and endowed in Europe for the exclusive practice of homœopathy, and that allopathy, through one of her best disciples, has said of the report from one of these institutions, "No candid physician will hesitate to acknowledge that the results there set forth, would have been considered by him as satisfactory, if they had occurred in his own practice." But the learned Senator reports that few people who swallow the doses understand the infinitesimal and astonishing minuteness to which the medicines are attenuated. If they are not aware of the minuteness of the dose they so "gravely swallow," they have felt its curative power, which is far better.

The learned Senator with a mighty effort of wit and pungent ridicule, (which was borrowed, but unacknowledged,) seizes upon, and holds up to view, one of the most attenuated doses of Hahnemann, and with his half ridicule and his half wonder looks more like a simple child of the forest, who, for the first time, had seen a great modern improvement, than a grave Senator of the Empire State. "Few men," he says, "have mathematical talent enough to put down in figures an ordinary homœopathic dose." Then follows the one decillionth of a grain set out in figures. "He goes on to say, "one decillionth of a grain of charcoal or oyster shell is not only a fit and proper dose to be given as a remedy for severe diseases, but is an agent of such power, that one dose will continue acting for thirty or forty days. Hahnemann says that a sextillionth of a grain of carbonate of ammonia will act beneficially for upwards of thirty-six days, and that the decillionth of a grain of oyster-shell will require forty or fifty, or even more days, to produce all the good it is capable of." Now, it would seem, indeed, that few men have mathematical talent enough to put down in figures this vast number, for the learned Senator is not among that number, as he has borrowed his figures as well as his wit from "Homœopathy, Allopathy, and Young Physic," by John Forbes, M.D., F.R.S., one of the Editors of the *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine*, Editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review, &c., &c.*, and forgotten to acknowledge from whom he had taken the ideas, and even the very words, as may be seen by comparing the two. Dr. Forbes says, after setting out the decillionth of a grain in figures, "a grain of oyster shell is not only a fit and proper dose to be given as a remedy in severe diseases, but is an agent of such



potent influence, that one dose of this amount will continue acting for thirty or forty days. Hahnemann tells us that a sextillionth of a grain of carbonate of ammonia will act beneficially upwards of thirty-six days, and the decillionth of a grain of oyster shell will require forty or fifty, or even more days, to effect all the good it is capable of." The learned Senator further says, "There never was a scheme proposed so contrary to common sense." What does the Senator mean by contrary to common sense? Why use such a term, applied to that which may be new and strange to him, and not within the range of his experience? As well might the black king in the depths of Africa have answered thus the intelligent traveller, who, among other truths, told his black highness that the rivers in his country at certain seasons of the year became hard like chrystal, and would bear the king and his whole court on its surface. It is said that his sable majesty received the narration of the traveller as the Dr. does the experiments and discoveries of the illustrious Hahnemann, and he might have exclaimed as the learned Senator does, and with about the same propriety, "It is contrary to common sense." The learned Senator further says, in speaking of homœopathy, "It suggests that small doses of therapeutic agents act stronger than others. If this is so, why not the same infinitesimal doses of food, nutritious substances to be equally, and more efficacious in supporting life than the quantity now used?" Is it possible that the learned Senator and a doctor, could put such a question? Is he not aware that disease in divers ways makes the system more susceptible to impressions, particularly to agents affecting diseased parts? Does he recognize no difference between the diseased function and the healthy one? Why is it that that man who yesterday could have gazed at the sun on the meridian, to-day, with his inflamed eyes is not able to bear the smallest ray of light without pain and suffering? Why is it that yonder individual who could yesterday have borne a northeaster, now finds in his deranged system, that the slightest breeze from the sunny south sends a chill through his frame? It is the altered condition of the body with its susceptibilities increased in passing from health to disease. The learned Senator seems to have no faith in the imponderable. Has he never read, nor heard, nor observed, that things without weight or apparent substance have had potent action on the human frame? It is amazing that one who has had to do with so subtle a thing as the vital

power, has never observed how easily it is acted upon by similar irritants beyond almost human appreciation, and should not have paused, or at least, well considered the law, as announced by such a man as Hahnemann, based upon severe experiments. We would ask the learned Senator how much weight and substance there was in the virus in the infected districts when the yellow fever visited the cities of New York and Philadelphia. They could board up the tainted spot, so that he who passed the line was stricken while, if he remained on the other side, his system was not poisoned. Does the learned Senator know that the chemist, with all his art of analysis, and with his most sensitive agents could not detect the deadly virus in the tainted atmosphere that was dealing such deadly blows, and was constrained to say that, as far as his analysis went, it was as pure as any that sustained life and health? So of the cholera, whose march through the land was like the movement of an invading army. You could see its advance day by day, following certain routes and passing others by; yet chemists could find no taint in the atmosphere, although there was no doubting the presence of poison, whose effects produced death and dismay throughout the land. Common sense could not doubt, though the learned Senator might not handle it, see it, taste it, or smell it; no, nor even have the mathematical talent to calculate its infinitesimal character. The learned Senator further says, "your Committee will only allude to one other peculiarity of homœopathy, viz: Its parade of *symptoms*, which are exclusively treated by homœopathsists to the disregard of diseases, &c." In answer to this, we will quote from his friend, Dr. Forbes, on whom the learned Senator has committed his plagiarisms, and it appears that he and Dr. Forbes, in this instance, do not agree. The learned Senator would seem to prefer that easy and comfortable way of practising more by names of diseases, given by artificial arrangement, than by the laborious method of taking an exact account of the whole and peculiar disturbance of the diseased system. Dr. Forbes thinks that easy way of the old school needed reformation, and recommended to them "to endeavor to introduce a more comprehensive and philosophical system of nosology, at least in chronic diseases, whereby the practitioner may be led less to consider the name of a disease, or some one symptom, or some one local affection in a disease, than the disease itself—that is, *the whole* of the derangements existing in the body, and which it is

his object to remove, if possible." But the most ridiculous part of the report (and that which is not found in Dr. Forbes book,) is the charge against homœopathy, that females prescribe its medicine. If that be an objection, what shall be said of the old system? Do none but educated physicians give and recommend its drugs? In conclusion, we have a serious charge against the learned Senator. He undertakes to quote from the works of Hahnemann, and does it falsely. We have no objection to the Doctor's conclusions, for they are his own, and if they are made honestly no one can complain; but when he undertakes to state facts, he is bound to state them truly; otherwise he may not only incur the charge of stupidity, but what is much worse, that of a lack of principle. The Dr. may be in a "sweet scented fog" in all his conclusions, but he has no right to begot other minds with a misstatement of facts; for that is no enviable position, to stand between the truth and his fellow-man, and obscure its light. The Dr. thus quotes Hahnemann, speaking of the trials of vegetable charcoal, "It produces sharp pains in the chest as if from an *intense charcoal fire*, the decillionth part of a grain of charcoal being ignited. This symptom is naturally followed by hot boiling in the chest, which at length is parted with as steam." Hahnemann never made such a statement of his experiments, nor has any translator done such monstrous injustice to the great man. Such stuff can alone be found in the report of the learned Senator. In that report Dr. Backus has shown great ignorance of the homœopathic works and their number, when he thinks that ten dollars will purchase their books and medicine. But we turn (from the report of the learned Senator,) with pleasure to the merited tribute of respect paid to the founder of our system by Dr. Forbes, who says: "Hahnemann was undoubtedly a man of genius and a scholar; a man of indefatigable industry, of undaunted energy. In the history of medicine, his name will appear in the same list with those of the greatest systematists and theorists, unsurpassed by few in the originality and ingenuity of his views, superior to most in having substantiated and carried out his doctrines into actual and most extensive practice."

## LAWS OF HEALTH.

The subject of the conditions, circumstances, or laws, by which health may be secured, preserved or upon which it depends, is as interesting to every human being, as it is far from being understood or regarded.

That laws exist, the knowledge and observance of which will tend to insure health, is evident from their nature; from all that we know of their operations, and from what we know of the character and designs of Him who instituted them.

They relate to the entire mode of human existence; to the air we breathe; the aliments we need; the clothing necessary to protect us from the temperature and its changes; to sleep; to the exercise and developement of our mental and physical powers, and to many or all of our social relations.

It will be our purpose in successive numbers of the Journal, to urge the importance of a more general knowledge of them, and we cannot too strongly recommend the works of the Messrs. Combe, of Edinburgh, of the Messrs. Fowlers, of our own city, and those of a similar character by other writers. whose labors to develope and illustrate these laws succeeding generations to the end of time will have reason to bless and hold in grateful remembrance.

To these may now be added the law of cure, discovered by the illustrious Hahnemann.

We are subject to many and various forms of disease\* the origin and nature of which we shall endeavor to show by the aid of new facts and principles established in connection with the above law.

We are liable to many accidents—to unavoidable and injurious exposures—to the influence of specific poisons, (or malaria.)

The waking up and aggravation of disease already existing in the system may be avoided by proper attention to the general laws of health. The sufferings from this state of things may likewise be in the same way alleviated; but a complete cure, the entire eradication of the disturbing cause must necessarily depend upon the application of the law of cure, in connection with an observance of all the natural laws.

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\* How completely insusceptible mankind, from a strict observance of all the laws of health, might, in the course of succeeding generations become, to the influence of dynamic causes, we are not prepared to say.



## REPORT OF THE MANCHESTER HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY.

We have received the annual report of this institution for 1841, which is interesting and satisfactory. This dispensary was organized three years ago. It is patronised by the right Hon. the Earl of Wilton, and others of high standing. The number of cases treated during the year was 3399. We have room only for a brief notice of the table of this report, viz:

"Diseases of the digestive organs" there were 49 cases; of Dyspepsia 35, cured 31, and 4 irregular; 25 cases of Gastralgia, 24 cured and 1 relieved; of the 89 cases there were 4 deaths—Chronic Dysentery 2, Ulceration of Bowels 1, Tabes Mesenterica 1.

The diseases of the "Respiratory and Circulating systems" also show unusual success, especially in Bronchitis. There were 48 cases of Chronic Bronchitis, 42 cured and 6 relieved; 14 acute of Acute Bronchitis, 13 cured and 1 died.

Why is it that dispensaries of our school are not established in this country? With the exception of the one in this city, we know of no other. We do hope the time is not far distant when every city in the United States will have its Homœopathic dispensary.

Wm. Henderson, M.D., Professor of Medicine and General Pathology, and lately one of the Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, has become a convert to Homœopathy, and has published a work entitled, "*An inquiry into the Homœopathic Practice of Medicine*," which we have not yet received. The "*British Journal of Homœopathy*" speaks in high terms of Professor Henderson and of his book. The "*London Lancet*," however, is in a perfect rage at both the one and the other. The "*Lancet*" urges that "speedy means be taken to expel the homœopath" from the University. The praise bestowed on Professor Henderson by this same "*Lancet*" at the time he was appointed professor, &c., presents a remarkable contrast with the views taken of him, now that he is a disciple of Hahnemann. However, we will let the English and Scotch fight their own battles, we have enough to do to look after our affairs at home.

We have until lately thought that homœopathy in this country would have to depend for its prosperity upon the junior members of

the profession; but we are now convinced that this is not so. We have had personal interviews with several, and have heard of others who have adopted homœopathy, and who have practiced their profession twenty, thirty and in one instance, upwards of forty years. Some of these have come hundreds of miles to our city, for the purpose of gaining information of the practice of homœopathy. Therefore, we have hope of the old members of the profession. We know that the most learned and experienced among them have little or no confidence in allopathy.

Physicians of our school should be true to their principles in practice, and if they are so they will present such evidence of their truth as will be irresistible.

We know, in our own experience, how difficult it is to rid ourselves of the influence of those baseless speculations in medicine, in which we were instructed. Yet, by persevering effort, it is possible to separate mere theories from facts, which are so mingled in the old school, that it is not an easy task to distinguish the one from the other, and which are *indifferently* used.

## N. Y. HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY.

This institution has been open for some months, and is now in successful operation.

It depends for its support upon the labours and funds of the attending physicians, and the voluntary contributions of those friendly to homœopathy.

The object of this institution is to afford the poor the means of availing themselves of homœopathic treatment; to enable those interested in homœopathy to witness its results; to contrast its success with other modes; and to demonstrate the truth of the great law upon which the practice is based; and it is the intention of its conductors to publish periodical reports of cases treated, course of treatment, and results obtained.

Similar institutions have been long in operation in Europe, and have published reports demonstrative of the success of our art, and quite satisfactory, even to allopathic physicians.

We trust that the friends of homœopathy will feel interested in sustaining this institution both by recommending those needing its advantages to avail themselves of them, and by relieving the physicians of some share of their pecuniary burden.

M. FELIX BOUDET, in his researches on the chemical composition of pulmonary tubercles, found, as he states, in one of the lungs examined, a considerable quantity of copper, enough to form a small button. The patient was a man sixty years of age, and had been an engineer.

The New York Journal of Homœopathy will be published for the present, once in two weeks at One Dollar a year. As soon as its circulation will warrant it, it will be published every week at the same price.

Our main object is to effect a reform in the practice of the healing art; a reform based upon a known law of cure—a true and single principle in the administration of remedies. While we invite the investigation of the physician to a principle in Therapeutics, by which he can prescribe with certainty and success, we shall endeavor to satisfy his patients that they may safely yield to him their entire confidence and support.

We trust that physicians will feel an interest in sustaining this Journal by their subscriptions, as well as by contributing to its columns.

We are confident of the support of those among general readers who feel an interest in the principles of medicine, or who have become converts to the practice of homœopathy.

Persons to whom this number is sent are invited to signify their reception of it by remitting a dollar, and to such it will be regularly forwarded.

"The small amount of positive instruction which there is in the immense number of medical works, consists in the cure (accidentally discovered) of two or three diseases, produced by a miasm of a constant character, as autumnal intermittent marsh fever, venereal diseases, and cloth-workers' itch. To this may be added the great accidental discovery of preservation from small-pox by vaccination. Now, these three or four cures are affected only in virtue of the principle which I have announced, *similia similibus*. Medicine has nothing more of a positive character to offer us; since the time of Hippocrates, the cure of all other diseases has remained unknown."

HAHNEMANN.

If the above is not quite true, it is nearly so—so very near the truth, that it awakes in us

reflections not agreeable to our professional pride.

ARSENIC IN PERITONEAL DROPSY.—"Dr. Debasay has treated a case successfully. One-twentieth of a grain was given twice a day. The improvement was notable in six weeks, and in six months all symptoms had ceased, and the catamenia which had been suppressed was restored."

We have no doubt that the thirtieth attenuation of the same drug would have acted more promptly, and possibly may have cured the case in "six weeks."—ED.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC EXAMINER for March, 1846, contains, as usual, much important matter for the careful study of the physician. Dr. Hempel, one of its Editors, is certainly a most industrious man; for he not only makes up most of the matter for the Examiner, which is published monthly, but he translates, from the German, a volume of several hundred pages which is published by Mr. Radde almost every month. Such industry is worthy of emulation.

The friends of Homœopathy in Washington, D. C., can obtain this Journal, by leaving their names with W. ADAMS, of that city.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I.

New-York, Saturday, May 9, 1846.

No. 2.

DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

**Isaac J. Oliver, Printer and Publisher.**

*Corner of Ann and Nassau Sts: New York*

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at *One Dollar a year*, in advance; single copies *Six Cents*. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences, by sending their names to the Publisher.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 592 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the JOURNAL sent to them by mail, on complying with the above terms.

All communications must be addressed (post paid) to the Editors, or to the Publisher.

**THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.**

**New-York, Saturday, May 9, 1846.**

## CHANGE OF NAME.

At the suggestion of several friends of Homœopathy, and the concurrence of our own judgment, this Journal will hereafter be entitled "**THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.**"

## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

It is desirable that Physicians of our School, from every part of the United States, should assemble in Philadelphia on the 13th inst., to attend the annual meeting of the "*American Institute of Homœopathy*." It is important that there should be a large attendance on this occasion, to help to counteract those vile slanders which have been propagated by enemies of reform. This, as well as other considerations in which our interests as individuals, and the great cause of reform in the healing art are concerned, should stimulate every member of the Institute, and also those who may desire to become members of this institution, to be present at that time. As homœopathy is no longer a doubtful system with those who have properly studied it, its advocates should be careful not to deter others from investigating its high claims by inexcusable supineness.

The publication of the proceedings of the coming session of the Institute, together with the names of its members, will be commenced in the next number of this Journal.

## ATTENUATION OF DRUGS.

We have read "if the Homœopathists would give up the infinitesimal doses of drugs, Physicians by hundreds would not hesitate to acknowledge almost every thing else of their school. And if we remember right it was asserted, that this foolish doctrine had stood in the way of the progress of reform in the healing art." Very likely this may be true. But shall we yield one part of the truth, to induce a belief in another part of it? especially when a belief in the one, and a denial of the other would render the whole useless.

It is to us a matter of astonishment that this subject should receive so much opposition; while phenomena no less mysterious, and which clearly illustrate this very doctrine, and of which no one has the least doubt, are constantly in the experience of every person. Consider, light, heat, electricity, galvanism, mesmerism, thoughts, miasms, life and the Creator himself; and we contend that the conviction will be irresistible that *quantity is not essential to the exhibition of power*. If this principle be true, then the doctrine of the attenuation of drugs cannot be overthrown. Let us look a little farther into this important subject. If the attenuation of drugs as practised by our school be a question of the division of matter; then, that well established principle in philosophy comes in, and declares that we know of no limit to the divisibility of matter. Again: If it involves the question, can there be power manifested without quantity? then, we refer to the subjects above enumerated, and will extend our remarks by a reference to *miasms*. If we consider the small pox miasm, we have this fact, that those who are inoculated uniformly have

the disease in a mild form. Now in these cases the virus is not attenuated. On the contrary, if a person susceptible of this miasm inhale the air, as he passes a house where this disease is; or if he resides in the neighborhood of it, he will become affected, and from the inception of the disease to its termination, it will be violent in comparison with that by inoculation. The conclusion is therefore that this miasm when attenuated is more efficacious than when not. No Physician of any experience in small pox can doubt the truth of the above statement. Take a coat, that may have hung in the room of a person affected with small pox, and place it in the open air, and let the wind blow upon it for weeks; and then allow a person who may be susceptible to this miasm, to approach it, and inhale the air about it, and the disease will be developed in him. Of what degree think you is the attenuation in such a case? And so thoroughly convinced are the people on this subject, that, was it not for the confidence they have in the antidotal effects of the *cow pox*, they would do, as they did in former years, burn up the beds, bedding and clothes of the sick, or bury them deep in the ground; for it was the settled conviction in the minds of all (except some gross minded Physicians, who could believe nothing but what they could see, feel, hear or taste) that the small pox poison could never be so attenuated as to destroy its virulence; and to some extent their experience had confirmed it.

In our next we shall take up the intermittent fever miasm to illustrate this same subject.

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#### OBJECTIONS TO HOMŒOPATHY CONSIDERED.

We read in a late publication of our city, "Hahnemann urged the necessity of collecting the totality of the phenomena of disease, and of the effects of drugs; but in his time the study of Pathological anatomy was in its infancy, and he turned his attention almost exclusively to the study of the symptoms."

This is not the first time, we have had from this same source the assertion that Hahnemann knew little or nothing of pathological anatomy; and the reason assigned for this ignorance is, that in his day it "was in its infancy. To us this statement seems remarkable, for Hahnemann lived and was in the discharge of the active duties of his profession, until about three years ago; and if pathological anatomy has grown from

"infancy" to maturity within the last three years, we are not aware of it. We think that Hahnemann's own words will set this matter in its true light. We quote from the introduction to the Organon.

"It was the boast of the former school of medicine, that their doctrine alone deserved the title of "*rational art of healing*," because it was pretended that they alone sought after and removed the *morbid cause*, and *followed the traces of nature herself in diseases*. *Tolle causam!* cried they continually; but that was all; they seldom went farther than that vain exclamation. *They talked* of being able to discover the causes of disease, without succeeding in their pretended attempts; for, by far the greater number of diseases being of dynamic origin, as well as of a dynamic nature, and their cause, therefore, not admitting of discovery to the senses, they were reduced to the necessity of inventing one.

By comparing, on the one hand, the normal state of the parts of the dead human body (anatomy) with the visible changes which these parts had undergone in subjects that had died of disease, (pathological anatomy,) and on the other, the functions of the living body (physiology) with the endless aberrations to which they are subject in the various stages of disease, (*semiotics, pathology*,) and drawing from thence conclusions, relative to the invisible manner in which the changes are brought about in the *interior* of man, when in a diseased state, they succeeded in forming an obscure and imaginary picture, which theoretic medicine regarded as the *prima causa morbi*, which afterwards became the *nearest cause*, and, at the same time, the *immediate essence of the disease*, and even the *disease itself*; although common sense tells us, that the cause of any thing can never be, at the same time, both the cause and the thing itself. How was it then possible, without deceiving themselves, to pretend to cure this yet undiscovered internal cause, or venture to prescribe for it medicines, whose curative tendency was equally for the most part unknown to them, and more especially to mix up several of those unknown substances in what we term prescriptions?

However the sublime project, of discovering *a priori*, some internal invisible cause of disease, resolved itself (at least among some self-conceited Physicians of the old school) into a search guided onward by the symptoms, after that which they might presume to be the generic character of the existing malady.



They endeavored to find out whether it was spasm, debility, or paralysis, fever or inflammation, induration or obstruction, in some one of the parts; excess of blood, (plethora,) or increase or deficiency of oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, or nitrogen, in the fluids; exaltation or depression of vitality in the arterial, venous, or capillary systems; a defect of relative proportion in the *factors* of sensibility, of irritability, or of nutrition. These conjectures, honored by the existing school with the name of *Causal Indication*, and regarded by them as the only rational part of medicine, were too hypothetical and fallacious, to be of any permanent utility in practice, and insufficient (even if they had any just foundation) to point out the best remedy in any particular case of disease. It is true, they were flattering to the self-love of the learned inventor, but acting on them only led him farther astray, and showed that there was more of ostentation in the pursuit than any reasonable hope of being able to profit by it, or arrive at the real curative indication. The old school regarded all the solids and fluids which had become changed by disease, (those in-normal substances, turgescient or secreted,) as the exciting cause of the disorder; or, at least, on account of their supposed re-action, they were considered to be the cause which kept up disease, and this latter opinion is adhered to, even at the present day."

From this we should judge Hahnemann was very far from being ignorant of pathological anatomy in "its infancy" and in its maturity, and also that he very well understood what use to make of it.

The same writer in the above publication says: "The Homœopathists as a body have been accused again and again, with some justice, of being mere symptomatologists. It becomes them to prove that they are not so; it becomes them to do this, not merely to gain the scientific regard of the *pathological school*, but because the exact application of the homœopathic method also requires it."

We have often been amused at the high pretensions of these "pathological school" gentlemen. Does the writer of the above suppose that any one of Hahnemann's disciples could for a moment allow, that the *treatment of diseases* would be advanced one step by the "scientific regard of the pathological school?"

Is it indeed necessary to "the exact application of the homœopathic method" that we should have the "scientific regard of the pathological school;" or is it only necessary to secure this object, that we show that we are not "mere symptomatologists."

If it means the latter then the time for "the exact application of the homœopathic method" has arrived; and we congratulate all the sick in the universe, for they may come and be cured. But if it means the former—alas! for homœopathy—she is gone, as sure as it is necessary to have the "scientific regard of the pathological school" to enable her to be "exact" in her "application" to the cure of diseases.

The writer of the above, does not seem to know the meaning of the term "symptomatologists." And in the next place, he does not seem to be aware that it is not the duty of our school by the rules of controversy which we believe are well established, "to prove that they are not" symptomatologists; but on the contrary it is the duty of himself and those of his school to show that they are so.

But as our readers may desire information on this point we will quote again from Hahnemann, by which they may learn the meaning of the term, and also his disapproval of that method of the treatment of diseases; he says "not knowing at times what plan to adopt in disease, Physicians have till now endeavored to suppress or annihilate some one of the various symptoms which appeared. This method which is known by the name of the *symptomatic*, has very justly excited universal contempt, not only because no advantage is derived from it, but because it gives rise to many bad consequences. A single existing symptom is no more the disease itself, than a single leg constitutes the entire of the human body. This method is so much the more hurtful in its effects, that in attacking an isolated symptom, they make use solely of an opposite remedy, (that is to say, of antipathics or palliatives) so that after an amendment of short duration the evil burst forth again worse than before."

#### HOMŒOPATHY, ALLOPATHY AND YOUNG PHYSIC.

BY JAMES M. QUIN, M. D.

Fifty years ago the word *homœopathy* was for the first time lisped in an obscure town in Germany, and, from that time to this, the science designated by that word has spread with lightning speed to the remotest corners of Europe, and has penetrated the forests of America, even to the Rocky Mountains.

Fifty years ago, to express a belief of the truth of this derided science, was to bring on the rash believer's head the anathemas of the

schools, and the [proscriptions of legal enactments, and to subject him to the charge of German mysticism, at that time synonymous almost with being leagued with the foul fiend.

At first, Contempt, silent and dignified ; next, Ridicule, noisy and confident ; at length, Envy and her offspring, Falsehood, have sought, each in its turn to crush the infant rebel against hoary-headed usage.

Fifty years have passed, and lo ! the change ! The houseless wanderer thrown upon the tender mercies of a selfish world, to battle with the pampered minion of twenty centuries, in the words of Dr. Forbes, "comes before us now, not in the garb of a suppliant, unknown and helpless, but as a conqueror, powerful, famous and triumphant. The disciples of Hahnemann are spread over the whole civilized world. There is not a town of any considerable size in Germany, France, Italy, England or America, that does not boast of possessing one or more homœopathic physicians, not a few of whom are men of high respectability and learning ; many of them in large practice and patronized especially by persons of high rank. New books on homœopathy issue in abundance from the press ; and journals exclusively devoted to its cause are printed and widely circulated in Europe and America. Numerous hospitals and dispensaries for the treatment of the poor on the new system have been established, many of which publish reports blazoning its success, not merely in warm phrases, but in the hard words and harder figures of statistical tables. The very fact of the publication of a *third* edition of such a large and expensive work as Dr. Laurie's (8 vo. pp. 576, London, 1846) proves how widely the practice is spread among the public generally. The last triumph, which homœopathy has achieved, is the conversion of Dr. Henderson, the Professor of Pathology in the University of Edinburgh from the old faith."

In our own city, where ten years ago there were not as many homœopathic physicians, the Homœopathic Society now numbers between 40 and 50 members, while the number throughout the United States cannot be less than 700 ; and within the last year, several important works have issued from the press ; among them, translations of Hahnemann's *Chronic Diseases*, and *Materia Medica* ; Böninghausen's *Treatise on Intermittent Fever* ; Ruckert's *Therapeutics* and Hartmann's remedies. We have also a monthly journal, the *Examiner*, and one published in the western part of this state. The

ablest periodical, however, in English, is decidedly the *British Journal of Homœopathy*, edited by Drs. Drysdale of Liverpool, and Russell of Edinburgh. In French there have been published since the year 1833, seven different journals, which have contributed during that period nearly 40 volumes. In German we have the *Hygea*, now in its 20th volume ; the *Allgemeine Homœopathische Zeitung*, now in its 28th volume ; the *Archiv*, in its 21st volume, and the *Austrian Journal of Homœopathy*, recently established at Vienna by Fleischmann, of which three numbers have been published, containing about 650 pages.

Among the distinguished men in various parts of the world who have engaged in the investigation of the truth of the Homœopathic law, we may mention Professor d'Amador, of the University of Montpellier ; Professor J. W. Arnold, late of the University of Zurich ; Professor Henderson, of the University of Edinburgh, and Professor Andral, of the Parisian School of Medicine, all of whom, excepting the last, have declared in favor of Homœopathy. The opponents of Homœopathy refer with great satisfaction to the experiments of Andral, undertaken, as they were, by authority of the *Académie de Médecine* of Paris. The unfairness and incorrectness of these experiments have been so often proved, that we will not here repeat them, but merely show from Professor Andral's own testimony, his unfitness for the task he undertook. Dr. Curie, in his *Principles of Homœopathy*, says :—"A short time indeed previous to the discussion of the question of Homœopathy by the *Académie de Médecine*, Dr. Andral mentioned in course of conversation with the author of this work, that although he had directed his attention to the subject, his mind was not made up as to its merits, and frankly avowed that he knew very little about the practice involved in the new doctrines. How then could Dr. Andral, who acknowledged that he had scarcely acquired the elements of Homœopathic practice, venture to pronounce sentence on these doctrines ? What opinion would be formed of a jury, which should condemn before it made itself acquainted with the facts of a case ? Yet such precisely was Dr. Andral's position.

"But there is a fact to be stated here which is perfectly decisive as to Dr. Andral ; he had absolutely no guide in the prescription of homœopathic medicines, and he made a wrong application of every one that he employed, as



has been clearly shown in the *Archives de la Medecine Homœopathique*, Tome premier, No. I., for July, 1834. No comments or details can add force to this decisive fact."

Our present purpose is to show the opinions of an Allopathic physician, one of the most eminent of his school, on the subject of Homœopathy. Dr. Forbes' article, from which the following extracts are taken, is contained in the XLI. number of the British and Foreign Medical Review, under the caption "Homœopathy, Allopathy and Young Physic," and professes to be a review of several works, and among them of Professor Henderson's "Inquiry into the Homœopathic Practice of Medicine." The reviewer states his intention to be "to lay before our readers some hasty sketches, and some fragmentary views relating to the general subject, which have long occupied our thoughts, and which are now, as it were, forced from us somewhat suddenly and prematurely by the perusal of Dr. Henderson's book."

"— we have not been unaware of its claims to attention, nor regardless of its remarkable progress in every country of Europe, both as a system of medical doctrine, and a system of medical practice."

Of Hahnemann, the reviewer says:

"No careful observer of his actions or candid reader of his writings, can hesitate for a moment to admit, that he was a very extraordinary man; one whose name will descend to posterity as the exclusive excogitator and founder of an original system of medicine, as ingenious as many that preceded it, and destined, probably, to be the remote, if not the immediate cause of more important fundamental changes in the practice of the healing art, than have resulted from any promulgated since the days of Galen himself. Hahnemann was undoubtedly a man of genius and a scholar; a man of indefatigable industry, of undoubted energy. In the history of medicine his name will appear in the same list with those of the greatest systematists; unsurpassed by few in the originality and ingenuity of his views, superior to most in having substantiated and carried out his doctrines into actual and most extensive practice."

One of the greatest stumbling-blocks in the way of the Allopathic non-believers is the doctrine of the infinitesimal doses. In the consideration of this part of the subject, Dr. Forbes descends from the elevated and dignified position of a reviewer, and has recourse to the *reductio ad absurdum* argument, by entering into an arithmetical calculation of the *quantity* of matter in the thirtieth dilution. How much *matter* I would ask these *material* gentlemen,

is there in the body of light which daily reaches us from the sun? That luminary is ninety-six millions (96,000,000) of miles distant from the earth, and light travels that distance in six minutes. Of what quantity of matter is it composed, when neither its volume nor the impetus it acquires in travelling such an immense distance, at so inconceivably rapid a rate, produces the slightest ill effects as it impinges on the delicate expansion of the optic nerve? How much substance is there in the electric and galvanic fluids? and yet the former is, perhaps, the most powerful agent in nature! Is *quantity* then necessary for the exhibition of power? We can all feel the genial influence of heat and appreciate its destructive power; yet, who has ever seen the matter of heat, or, as chemists call it, caloric? How much does it weigh? In all those diseases which are propagated by atmospheric influences, commonly called contagious or infectious diseases, as the plague, yellow-fever, &c., what is the amount of noxious matter inhaled, which is sufficient, nevertheless, to produce the most loathsome diseases and the most frightful deaths? Why, Chemistry, with all its boasted powers of analysis, has never been able to detect the slightest deviation from the normal standard, and yet every breeze may come charged with disease and death. From a very clever work on the subject of Homœopathy, recently published in London, written by M. B. Sampson, under the superintendence of the English Homœopathic Association, Lord Grosvenor, President, we make the following extract.

To be continued.

#### SOME THINGS EXPLAINED.

It seems to us remarkable that allopathic physicians should continue to publish, that a few hours, or a few days study is enough to qualify any one of ordinary intelligence, to practice homœopathy; at the same time they show an utter ignorance of it themselves. To attain a knowledge of homœopathy, must needs require much patient study; and that, too, by those who have been thoroughly instructed in all the branches usually taught in our medical colleges, except the *materia medica* and *therapeutics*. Another point should be understood by every member of the profession, which is, that homœopathy contemplates almost exclusively a pure *materia medica*, and a true system of *therapeutics*. The essential difference, therefore, between the old and the new school, consists in

an entire rejection by the latter, of the *materia medica*, and therapeutics of the former. Homœopathy embraces every thing that is known of diseases as recognised by allopathy. Every fact which can be ascertained of diseases, may be used by the homœopathic practitioner; and he must, if he reasonably expects success in the cure of the sick, enter upon a most thorough and minute examination of each case of disease he may be called upon to treat. And this, to an extent far beyond what is necessary or practiced by the allopathic practitioner. It is a fact, that we do not fear to declare, that the most learned and experienced in allopathy would find it an exceedingly arduous task to take a record of a case of disease so as to select the remedy in accordance with the law *similia similibus*. If any one doubt it, let him try it. Let it, therefore, be remembered that homœopathy aims essentially at a pure *materia medica*, and at a true system of therapeutics. And while the allopathic school is engaged with laudable industry, and with extraordinary ability and learning in extending the knowledge of the true science of diseases; the homœopathic school is engaged with equal industry, and with equal ability and learning, to furnish, so far as it is practicable, a perfect *materia medica*, and a true system of therapeutics. If this be so, and we assert it is, why then should the two schools wrangle? Why reproach one another? Do not both aim to secure the same object? The relief of suffering humanity—the cure of the sick? Whatever may have happened under similar circumstances years ago in other countries, in this country, and in this century it is out of place, for members of the medical profession to indulge in recrimination towards each other, on account of a difference of opinion in regard to medical science. All our quarrels in this respect go to convince the lookers on, that our art is imperfect, and should not be relied upon with full confidence; and while we are hot in unworthy disputations, which cannot profit, and of which we ought to be ashamed, the sick, in disgust of us, fly in despair to quack doctors or the advertised quack medicines.

#### LAWS OF HEALTH.

If the attainment of a knowledge of the laws upon which health and life depends be possible, it is certainly most rational to seek it; and yet it is too often the case with those who seek to

develope and propagate these laws, as it always is with the student of true rational and practical philosophy, when he presents any new facts or principles in nature or art; though his discoveries may be of incalculable value to mankind, there are those assuming to hold exclusive possession of the temple of science, who find sneers and scoffs their most ready answer.

Such has ever been the reception by those interested in venerable systems of error, accorded to all the great discoveries of the human mind, so that jeers and ridicule have become some evidence of the truth of a new doctrine, at least, they afford reason for suspecting the truth of what is thus opposed.

Hahnemann in discovering a great law of nature, upon which the cure of disease always, and life itself often depends, has enrolled his name upon the records of immortality; it will be seen there in brighter and broader characters as the future advances, and the reflected light of truth is less obscured by the mists of ignorance, prejudice, and selfishness.

Upon the principles established by him, in connection with other natural laws, will be based the means of health and the art of cure, a system harmonious and complete, beyond and above the narrow results of experiments upon diseases, or the palliation of disorders growing out of inattention to, or positive abuse of, the conditions of health. It embraces the whole range of the moral and physical constitution and its relations; the dynamic influences that disturb, and the specific agents that restore it. Upon a less broad foundation should not—and upon less true and rational principles, cannot the art of health and cure be established, and the science of medicine attain what all sciences must necessarily have, fixed and acknowledged principles. We speak of the laws of health and of cure of disease in connection, inasmuch as a continuance of the one and the eradication of the other are alike dependent upon natural laws.

A man in health must obey its laws in order to secure its continuance; a man diseased must not only do this, but he must come under the influence of still another law in order to regain health.

#### BICHRIMATE OF POTASH IN CROUP.

The Homœopathic Examiner for March, 1846, has an interesting paper by Dr. W. E. PAYNE, of Bath, Me., on the use of *bichromate of potash*



in membranous croup. We extract the following:

*Case 1.* "Boy of two years; had enjoyed good health up to the time of this attack. A slight difficulty of breathing, when the mouth was closed, owing to one nostril being obstructed with a plug of mucus, was observable. Pulse irregular and intermittent. There was a slight elevation of the temperature of the skin. Otherwise the child appeared well. He was lively and playful. This state continued for three or four days without any perceptible change, except the appearance of a few small sores below the nostrils, which were somewhat moist. On the evening of the third or fourth day there was, evidently, a change or increase of the disease. The respiration, though not hard, could be heard distinctly in any part of the room when the child made a deep inspiration. This did not seem to proceed, as before, from the obstructed nostril, though this remained the same, but from some difficulty about the larynx. The child would frequently carry his hand to his throat and put his fingers into his mouth. On the following day the difficulty of breathing had evidently increased. On applying the ear to the neck a whistling sound was apparent, like that which may be produced by the passage of air through a metallic tube. Voice hoarse. Cough not frequent, but hoarse, dry and barking or crowing. The child was restless, sleepless, and refused to drink apparently because deglutition was painful. The tonsils and upper part of the larynx were red and swollen, and about the fauces was a small quantity of tenacious mucus. After the first day of invasion the child could swallow his drinks without difficulty, and was thirsty. As the disease progressed the difficulty of breathing gradually increased, causing a strong action of the abdominal muscles, the muscles of the neck and shoulder-blades. The head was inclined backwards. The shrill whistling respiratory sound increased, together with a tearing sound like that produced by a saw running through a dry board. The cough was mostly dry, but occasionally sounded loose and rattling. It however grew less and less distinct, until towards the close of the disease it amounted to little more than a grunt. The child would be carried to and fro continually—not one moment would he allow his parents to sit with him. The breath became very offensive, and this offensiveness increased to an intolerant degree as the disease advanced. The plug of mucus remained in the nostrils, but the herpetic

sores gradually dried away. The temperature of the skin was rather below than above the natural standard. During the last day or two of the disease the child was inclined to stupor. Though these symptoms gradually increased, yet there were occasional remissions: the breathing became less difficult, and the whole general appearance of the child was much better; but this apparent giving way of the disease lasted only for a short time. The breathing could be heard often in the street.

In my search for remedies in this case, I could find none that appeared to me to be homœopathic. Neither *Acon.*, *Spong.*, *Iod.*, *Phos.*, or *Bell.*, seemed to cover the case. But I knew of no remedies that presented a fairer prospect of success, so I began the treatment with *Acon.*, hoping to gain some power over the local inflammation. But I could perceive no effect. *Acon.* was followed by *Spong.*, but still no effect. Then *Acon.* and *Spong.* in alternation. Then *Hep.*; and afterwards *Hep.* and *Spong.* alternately, but I could perceive no more effect than if these medicines had remained in my case. I then gave *Iod.* according to the method of Dr. Koch. Still the disease went on without interruption. *Phos.* was equally inefficient."

This case terminated fatally. A short time after Dr. Payne had another case, in which he says, "the symptoms were precisely like the above, with the difference only, the difficulty of breathing increased rather more rapidly, and the cough rather more frequent. The character of the cough and respiration was alike in both cases. The gradual approach and increase of disease were similar; the temperature of the skin and frequency of pulse were alike; in both cases the nostril of the left side contained a plug of elastic mucus, and the general appearance of the children was in every way similar. In this case I used *Kal. Bich.* 6, one drop in a tumbler half filled with rain water; and a teaspoonfull of this was given every five hours. A small patch of linen was wet with cold water, and laid upon the throat. The difficulty of breathing was much increased during the first eight hours of the treatment, but after this period it became less and less difficult, until it assumed almost its natural character. The hoarseness, however, remained, together with the barking cough, after *Kali Bich.* had effected all that it appeared capable of doing. The latter symptoms were removed in three or four days, by *Hep. Sulph.* repeated morning and evening.

I am aware that the use of the wet linen to

the neck may possibly render the effects of Kali Bich. somewhat doubtful, though I do not attribute the good effect to the linen that might have been fairly attributable, if its application had been carried to the extent that a hydropathist would have required. And what would render the good effects of the wet linen still more doubtful in my estimation, is the fact that, since treating the above case, I have treated my own child, for a similar attack, with Kali Bich. without the use of the wet linen.

My attention was drawn to the use of Kali Bich. as a remedy in croup after losing the above case, by reading Dr. Drysdale's proving of this remedy in the British Journal of Homœopathy. It may be seen that Dr. Drysdale gives in his "Summary of Pathological appearances produced by Bichromate of Potash," the following under the head, "Respiratory apparatus. The air passages were constantly lined with a thick ropy muco-purulent fluid, when death was delayed beyond several days. In some instances the trachea was lined with a complete false membrane. The epiglottis, rima glottidis, trachea and bronchia were at different times deeply injected. The lungs were generally healthy, and presented a remarkable contrast to the highly inflamed bronchia."

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THE HOMŒOPATHIC PIONEER is published at Syracuse, New-York, and is edited by Drs. H. HULL CATOR and L. M. TRACY. We have reason to believe that it is doing much to spread the knowledge of our art. The following case is taken from the "Pioneer," and we insert it in our Journal, believing it will serve to illustrate the practice of allopathy, of which we are desirous the public should have some knowledge. And it is not often we can secure reported cases of treatment of that school so minute in the details. The "Pioneer" says, "As illustrative of the candor and liberality with which we have made the selection; we may state, that the practitioner in the case was Dr. J. T. Pitney, of Cayuga county, one of great experience and superior allopathic attainments, and whose practice brings into full requisition all the highest and most recondite resources of the system. Not long since he delivered before the medical society of his county, and caused to be published, an elaborate address, replete with disparaging invective against homœopathy and its practitioners as being all sorts of quackery and humbugs.

Aware that he had previously been physician

to the Auburn State Prison, and that he was then required to enter in a public record the disease and treatment of each of his patients, we deemed the occasion and opportunity fitting to obtain a sample of his therapeutics as indicative of his conceptions of true medical science.

The extract below is literal from his entries. We have given, in his words, "the strange eventful history" of the case of Abram Armstrong from its trivial origin, "A pain in the side," through all the protean shapes of disease and its ingenious medley of treatment to its speedy and final grand catastrophe of *chronic hepatitis*, latent *pneumonia*, and death. People after that may be found credulous enough to believe that the bleeding, blistering, and drugging exhibited, were quite innocent of the patient's death, and that allopathy is a pure and sublimated science. Let it, at all events, be remembered as the Antipodes of Homœopathy, and if such is allopathy in the hands of the erudite, sagacious, and distinguished, what are the hopes of those who fall into the hands of its inferior practitioners?"

#### ABRAM ARMSTRONG---COMB STORE.

The original disease, as appears by the medical record of the Prison, was "Pain in the side." From those books we have copied and given below, under their respective dates, the different diseases and the treatment.

1842.—Nov. 22.—*Pain in Side.* Pul. Dov.\* grs. 8 bis in die.†

Dec. 2.—Strangury. 1 ox. Salts.

Dec. 7.—Constipation. Pulv. Jal. and Cream Tart.

Dec. 11.—Debility. Tinct. Columbo 1 dr. ter in die.\*

Dec. 13.—Catarrh. Pulv. Dov. 8 grs.

Dec. 17.—Constipation. Laxative pills.

Dec. 19.—Peritonitis. Phlebotomy 20 oz., and Ol. Ricini, low diet, and mucilaginous drinks.

20th. Do. Emplast. Canth., low diet and mucilaginous drinks.

21. Do. Ol. Ricini., [Castor Oil.] low diet.

22. Do. Emplast. Canth., low diet.

23 Peritonitis and Strangury. Spts. Nit. and Slippery Elm.

24. *Pain in Side.* Salts 6 drs., and low diet.

25. Peritonitis. Dress. Blister, and give Spts. Nit. gttt 30 every 4 hours.

26. Do. Laxative pills—discharged from hospital.



30. Debility. Tinct. Columbo. 1 dr. ter in die.

1843.—January 4. Intermittent Fever. Bilious pills; Emetic.

5. Nausea. Essence Wintergreen. Came to Hospital yesterday afternoon.

6. Debility. Blue pill, gr. (grain) 1, ter in die.

7. Do. " " " mild diet.

8. Fever anomalous. Calom. gr. 4, and Sulph. Magnesia 4 hours after.

9. Debility. Whiskey sling and Soup diet.

10. Do. Brandy sling and good diet.

11. Do. " " Elix. Vitriol gtts. 10 ter in die.

12. Do. " " and good diet.

13. Do. " " Elix. Vitriol gtts. 10 ter in die and soup.

14. Do. Good diet and no medicine.

15. Do. Continued sour drops and soup diet.

16. Do. Same as yesterday.

17. Do. Whiskey sling and soup diet.

18. Do. Tinct. Columbo and Elix. Vitriol.

19. Do. " " " " and brandy.

20. Do. Same as yesterday.

21. Do. Blue pill; Pulv. Rhei; Pulv. Dov.; Tinct. Columbo.

22. Cardialgia. Calcin. Magnesia.

23. " " " and mild diet.

24. " " " and mild diet.

25. " " " "

26. " " " bis in die.

27. " Carb. " "

28. " Calcin. " "

29. " " " and Tinct. Columbo.

30. " " " and apply Origanum Lin. to side.

31. Cardialgia " " "

Feb. 1. " " " "

2. " " " "

3. " " " "

4. " " " "

5. Chronic Hepatitis. Calom. grs. 12, and salts if necessary.

6. Chronic " no med. but apply Emp. Canth. 4 inch. square, and low diet.

7. Chronic Hepatitis. Phlebotomy 20 oz.: and Calomel grs. 10, and low diet.

8. Chronic Hepatitis. Blue pills continue; ut hier.

9. " " Cont. Blue pill, mild diet; and Emp. Canth.

10. Do. Do. " " and other means.

11. " " Cont. same means.

12. " " Cont. Blue pills and mild diet.

13. " " Laxat. med.; low diet; and blue pills.

14. " " Cont. Blue pills and low diet.

15. " " Phlebot. 12 oz.

16. " " Continue same means. [i. e. bled 12 ounces!—Ed.]

17. " " " "

18. " " " "

19. " " " "

20. " " Blue pill and opium, improved diet.

21. " " " continued.

22. " " Cont. same means.

23. " " Blue pill.

24. " " Cont. same means with improved diet.

25. " " Cont. same means.

26. Debility. A little brandy sling and improved diet.

27. Debility. Brandy sling and good diet.

28. " Decoction of Columbo, brandy sling, and Elix. Vitriol.

March 1. Debility. Columbo infusion, brandy and good diet, continued.

2. Debility. Quinine and Brandy.

3. " " " Elix. Vitriol, and good diet.

4. " Cont. same means.

5. " " Brandy and Quinine, and good diet. Cont. ut hier.\*

6. " Same as yesterday.

7. " Omit tonics and stimulants, but continued good diet.

8. Debility. Wine and good diet.

9. " Continue same means.

10. " Continued good diet.

11. " " "

\* Dover's Powders, composed of Ipecac, Opium, and Sulphate of Potash.

† Bis in Die—twice a day.

‡ Ter in die—three times a day.

§ Spanish flies plaster.

Peritonitis—Inflammation of the bowels.

Strangury—Suppression of urine.

Drops.

Pulv. Rhei.—Pulverized Rhubarb.

|| Ut hier—as yesterday.

12. Debility. Continued good diet.
13. Pain in side. Laxative medicine.
14. Debility. Soup Diet.
15. Chronic Hepatitis. Emp. Canth and low diet.
16. " " Continue same means.
17. " " Taraxacum (extract of Dandelion) gr. 1.
18. " " " grs. 2, bis in die.
19. " " Salts 4 drachms.

On the 20th, Dr. Pitney was superseded as physician to the Prison, by Dr. Dimon, who at once commenced treatment of Armstrong for Pneumonia, and continued it till the 30th, (11 days after Dr. P. left him,) on which day the patient died.

#### DEATH RESULTING FROM THE APPLICATION OF A BLISTER.

Dr. Watson relates the case of a child, aged 4 years, to the back of whose neck a female relative applied a blister. It remained on eight hours, and slipped to the side of the neck. The integuments became inflamed, and there was a disposition to sloughing, especially over the sterno-cleido mastoid muscle. The child was seen by Dr. Watson, and then had been suffering twelve days, but was able to play about the house; complaining only when the sore was disturbed by dressing. It had been dressed by poultices, and with the ointment of hydriodate of potassa. Finding that the sore was excessively sensitive, and the child refractory, and suffering severely from the dressing, an anodyne poultice was recommended, which was then changed for unctuous dressings. At the end of a week from the first visit, she was again seen, and found in a state of nervous prostration, bordering on collapse; her skin cold, lips blue, respiration short and labored, her intellect clear, her temper irascible and fretful, her pulse about forty. She was also vomiting continually, especially after attempting to swallow, or when moved, or when her head was elevated.

She made no complaint of pain in her stomach, or other internal organs. She was constantly crying for drink, which she swallowed in a ravenous manner, without assuaging her thirst.

The matter ejected from the stomach was simply a deep greenish bile, diluted with water. Stimulants were applied with some partial benefit, but she continued to sink, and died the following morning. No autopsy was made. She was exhausted, from the irritation of the exposed and ulcerated surface, and died in a state of pure nervous exhaustion. The vomiting came on before the other symptoms of collapse, and continued to the last.

The *London Lancet*, in noticing this case, observes:

"Some share in this fatal result must be assigned to the irritating application—ointment of iodide of potassium—a rather unusual application to a blistered surface."

The first remark we have to make on the above case is, that it is unreasonable to blame the "female relative" for applying the blister; for, allopathic physicians do so on infants every day—not only on the neck, but on the chest and thighs; and in some instances all at the same time. We have seen the little creatures almost literally covered with blisters. The "female" should not be blamed; she followed the instruction of the highest authority of her school.

Again: We agree with the "Lancet" that hydriodate of potassa had something to do with the death of this child. At the same time we look with more suspicion on that "anodyne poultice." Let us analyze the case. The condition of the child at the time the doctor first saw her, was caused by the cantharides, and hydriodate of potassa. The doctor recommended an "anodyne poultice." The composition of this poultice we do not positively know, but in the pathogenesis of opium we have these symptoms, which will be seen to correspond most strikingly to those of this child;—"great weakness, which corresponds to the "nervous prostration;"—"general coldness of the skin; pulse slow; violent thirst; vomiting of greenish matter; obstructed respiration." Hydriodate of potassa causes "irascibility, passion and quarrelsome humour." Cantharides causes—"disposition to be angry and to fly into a rage." These three drugs, but most likely, the "anodyne poultice," caused the death of the child.

We remember to have been called some four years ago to a child of about the same age, to whose neck its mother had applied a blister; and with results, so far as the inflammation and sloughing goes in the above case, more terrible.—This case was cured in two weeks or nearly so, by very small doses of spirit of camphor repeated three or four times a day, without any poultice or ointment of any kind. Camphor is an antidote to cantharides. If physicians would study the Homœopathic *materia medica*, they would be able to detect drug symptoms with a precision which those unacquainted with it can scarcely conceive. And in this age of excessive indulgence in drugs, they should be on



the lookout for the symptoms of them, and avoid attributing effects to disease, which are caused only by drugs.

#### DEATH BY MORPHINE.

We have been informed of two cases of death in young children, caused by *morphine*.

One of these cases came under the notice of a physician of our school, who instantly recognized the cause, and frankly stated his opinion of it. But it was stoutly denied that any opium had been given to the child. Finally, however, the nurse admitted that she had been in the habit of taking *morphine* as an anodyne. In no way could this child have been poisoned by this drug, other than through the breasts of the nurse.

In the other case, the child had nursed its own mother, who had also taken *morphine* as an adodyne. It is a very common practice for physicians of the old school to prescribe opium or morphine to nurses, and mothers while nursing; and also, (as every apothecary knows,) hundreds of nursing mothers, of their own accord, take one or the other of these drugs in large quantities. Consequently many, if not most of these cases of convulsions in children, which are so numerous, especially in cities, are occasioned by this cause alone.

We, ourselves, had suspected this years ago, and, more recently, we have become confirmed in the opinion. We urge upon physicians to carefully investigate every case of convulsions in children they may meet with; as it is important to know when these affections are owing to effects of opium, or other anodynes.

The late Dr. James Johnson several years ago related the case of a gentleman in London, who for "epileptic fits of the most violent and distressing kind" took *nitrate of silver*; beginning with a quarter of a grain three times a day, gradually increased. The fits entirely ceased in about six months; the medicine, however, was continued for the space of three years, the dose being eighteen grains a day for nearly all the third year. His skin became intensely blue and continued so for twenty-five years, up to the time the case was reported.

The patient, who was "a highly intelligent man," averred, "that he never experienced any unpleasant effect from the medicine; indeed,

he felt no effect at all, except its remedial power in arresting the epilepsy."

It is often charged upon homœopathic doses of drugs, that no sensible effects are experienced by those who take them; therefore, say our opponents, although cures may follow, yet the drugs have no agency in such a result; it is "nature, diet or imagination," or something else. But in the above case, the cure is attributed without any hesitation to the drug employed in it, although the patient "felt no effect at all," not even from the enormous doses, which were continued for so many years.

The above case shows another very important fact, which is, that drugs are capable of causing deleterious effects in the human system which can never be removed. This man, no doubt, carried his "blue" skin to his grave. The nitrate of silver continued to act for 25 years, and yet homœopaths are laughed at for asserting that certain drugs will act in the human system for sixty days.

#### HOMŒOPATHY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN.

We read the following in an Allopathic Journal, the *Med. Centr. Zeitung*, 1845, No. 48, Berlin.

Perhaps no medical lectures were ever so well attended at this University, as those of Professor Schultz, on Homœopathy and Allopathy. The largest theatre in the University could scarcely contain the audience, who evidently follow, with the most profound attention, the course of the celebrated teacher. As might have been expected, the relation of allopathy to homœopathy was brought into a perfectly novel point of view, founded entirely upon the experiments of Professor Schultz himself, and pursued in the spirit of his general pathology. The necessity of assigning to homœopathy a place in scientific medicine was recognized, the obvious defects in the present state of allopathy were not concealed, and the utmost anxiety is manifested to ascertain what conclusions Professor Schultz will arrive at with respect to the grand medical problem; but no doubt he will take for his guide the general rules laid down in his work on pathology.—*British Jour. of Homœopathy*.

Persons in want of Cards or other Printing can have their orders executed cheap at the office of this Journal.

The publisher of this Journal is gratified at the favorable reception it has received from many members of the profession and others. Although the first number was more a prospectus than any thing else, yet subscriptions have come in, sufficient in amount, to indicate the complete success of the undertaking. To render it still more acceptable and useful, four more pages have been added; and other improvements are in contemplation, which, from time to time, will be developed, until it shall be acknowledged that "THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY" has accomplished the objects had in view in its publication.

Hereafter it will not be sent to any but actual subscribers, agreeably to the terms as stated on the first page.

The publisher thinks it is not asking too much of every Homœopathic Physician in these United States to send him his own subscription, together with those of his friends, not of the profession, who may feel an interest in the success of homœopathy.

The Editors will attend the meeting of the "American Institute of Homœopathy," in Philadelphia, on the 13th inst., and they have kindly consented to receive subscriptions from those present on that occasion.

The British Journal of Homœopathy contains a letter from Professor Henderson of the University of Edinburgh, to Dr. Jno. Forbes, which we shall fully notice hereafter.

Mr. Radde has published it in a pamphlet. We must say, as all who read this letter and Dr. Forbes Review will think, the doctor successfully and *quite satisfactorily* answered.

We have had the pleasure to hear a course of Dr. Wieting's lectures. The subject commends itself to all who care to know the laws and conditions of health and rational enjoyment.

The Dr. makes his lectures interesting, and we feel a sincere desire to have our friends hear him. A proper adherence to his suggestions as relating to the natural conditions of health, and an application of the law of cure, (when necessary) will secure health to all who are seeking it.

We cannot countenance the custom, which is growing in some sections of our country, of physicians advertising themselves in newspapers and upon their signs as "*Homœopathic physicians*." Such a course, we think, is uncalled for; and is a violation of the wholesome rule in medical ethics of long standing, which we hope will be strictly observed by those of our school. We look to the time when it will not be necessary to use the terms, homœopathy or allopathy.

And this period will have arrived when the profession abandon the *materia medica* of the old school, which it must, and cannot avoid if it would, and adopt the *materia medica* of the new school. We take our position here, and think we are prepared to maintain it; that whoever receives the *materia medica* of the homœopathic school must, as a necessary consequence, practice every thing essential to it.

So far as theory goes in this matter, we are satisfied that this is the true ground for our school to take, and hereafter we shall examine this subject more in detail.

Letters for the Editors may be directed to 592 Broadway.

Copies of this Journal may be had at W. H. Graham's, general agent for publications, Tribune Building; also, at Taylor's, general agent for publications, No. 2 Astor House.

Agents for Periodicals in the cities and towns of the United States may be supplied with this Journal on the usual terms, on application to the publisher.

THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY will be held at Philadelphia, on the second Wednesday of May, at 10 o'clock, A.M., in the Hall of the Franklin Institute.

N. Y., Ap. 26, 1846. EDWARD BAYARD, Sec.

SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY, No. 592 Broadway, adjoining Niblo's Theatre. John T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physicians', Pocket and Family Cases of Medicines on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters, a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY, BROADWAY, corner of Lispenard street, (entrance No. 74 Lispenard street.) Open daily, (Sunday excepted,) from 3 to 4.

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It is the intention of the Publisher to have Agents for this Journal in the principal cities and towns in the U. States. In the mean time subscriptions may be sent by mail.



# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. 1.

New York, Saturday, May 23, 1846.

NO. 3.

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D. AND R. A. SNOW, M. D., EDITORS.

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DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 729 Broadway.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1846.

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SECOND EDITION.

AGENTS.

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## CAUTION IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF DRUGS.

Whatever imperfections there may be in the healing art, we know enough to be able to treat diseases with a tolerable degree of certainty; but it is madness, it is downright wickedness, for the uneducated and the inexperienced to attempt to prescribe drugs for the sick. It may have always been so, that almost every man and woman believe themselves competent to give an opinion of diseases and prescribe the remedies. Without hesitation, these uneducated and uninitiated persons prescribe the most poisonous drugs in the most desperate cases of

disease. In fact, the more severe the malady, the greater is their confidence in prescribing. They often urge the administration of drugs, on the ground that the attending physician has but little hope of the case; therefore, say they, there is no harm in "*doing all we can*," judgment and skill being of no consequence in such circumstances; forgetting a common-sense rule, that the more desperate the case, the greater the necessity of adhering strictly to known principles in the treatment. Physicians themselves sometimes forget this rule, and go on blindly in their work.

In our school there are those who think, and their old school friends in and out of the profession help them to think, that our *small doses* can do no harm. This is a great error, and the time is not far distant when it will be acknowledged. We assert, and are prepared to prove it, that a quack in homœopathy is a most dangerous person, and he should be known and avoided. Allow a quack in homœopathy to prescribe for a person predisposed to *phthisis pulmonalis*, and it is not unlikely he may awake this terrible disease, and render it impossible for the most skillful treatment to repair the injury. Some physicians recommend their patients to procure boxes of medicines and prescribe for themselves and families, especially tinctures, in what is called ordinary cases.

We cannot conscientiously give sanction to this custom to the extent it is carried at the present day. We have more than once seen the evil of it. Often have we visited the sick, and would be told that some half dozen or more drugs had been given by the advice of a relative or friend. On investigating a case under these circumstances, we find a state of confusion in the symptoms, which renders it quite impossible, with any degree of certainty, to select the appropriate remedy. On the contrary, if we had seen the case at the first, a single dose of the indicated drug would have promptly cured it.

There was a time in the history of our experience in homœopathy, when we did not hesitate to administer large and repeated doses of drugs; but experience has taught us to beware how we use the *small doses*, even of the 30th attenuation. Some of our professional brethren may smile, but we declare a truth, of which we hope to convince them. It is not an easy task to familiarize ones'self with drug symptoms and an acute observer of our school is often the object of ridicule, because he pretends to see those symptoms; where an ordinary observer, and one unpractised, can see nothing at all. How often have we had it said to us, "there is no effect of the medicine," while it was, as it seemed to us, impossible for any but the blind not to perceive, and fully recognize, the curative effects of the drug employed.

#### HOMŒOPATHY GOING DOWN.

Soon after Hahnemann made known his system of disease and its treatment, the cry was raised "homœopathy is going down;" and it would seem that as is its prosperity, so is the loudness of the cry, especially in this city. We will not deny that here and there a respectable family may have abandoned what *they* regarded homœopathy; yet there are few indeed who have lost confidence in homœopathy, where the practice was strictly in accordance with those rules which Hahnemann established, and to which he firmly adhered to his dying day. It is well known to the profession that there are those who see fit to treat diseases by what is termed a *mixed* practice: Of this we do not complain provided it be understood by the physician and his patients that it is not homœopathy: that it is not Hahnemann's practice. We cannot remain silent and allow the term homœopathy to be thus unappropriately employed. Homœopathy is not "going down," but it is *going up*. It has become a little too popular for its true interest; conversions are sudden and numerous, the result of which is only a partial knowledge of it, which leads to an imperfect practice, which of course fails—always fails in chronic diseases, and frequently in acute ones.

How strange, that our opponents should not perceive that at this moment in almost every part of the world, allopathy is modified by homœopathy, and especially, is this so in our own country. It is well known that our school is opposed to blood letting, and for several years past students have been cautioned on blood

letting by teachers in the medical schools, which at one time was almost the only reliance in the treatment of diseases. But now, he that does not observe caution with the lancet, is regarded by our opponents as behind the age in medical knowledge. It is a common remark by allopathic physicians, which thousands can testify to, that they do not employ half or one third as much medicine as they did formerly, and we do not question their veracity in this respect. It is also well known that prescriptions are more simple than formerly, not so many drugs mixed together, but a single drug given by itself, a thing unheard of a few years ago. All this and much more, which might be named, we take as evidence that even allopathic physicians themselves are being witnesses that homœopathy is not going down.

#### OBJECTIONS TO HOMŒOPATHY CONSIDERED.

It is thought by some who have no experience in Hahnemann's practice, that we do not use what is known of the character of diseases. This is an error, and we do not see how it is possible for those who pretend to have studied Hahnemann should fall into it. We are sure that those who declare this, can have no clear understanding of homœopathy; for it is absolutely necessary that the true character of each case of disease should be made out, as the very first step to the treatment. In doing which, we avail ourselves of all the well ascertained diagnostic symptoms with as great care as the most strenuous advocate of pathology can possibly require, and if we may be allowed to boast a little, we think, that the true disciple of Hahnemann is as well skilled in determining the character of diseases as he of any other school. Of one thing we are certain, that all the knowledge we can acquire of an individual case of disease, can be made available by us, which is not true of the allopathic practitioner. If we know the actual condition of the sick, we can adapt our remedies to it, with a precision which we know is altogether unknown among those of the old school. There will be no guess work about it. We do not say *probably* such a prescription may relieve; but we say—such a drug when indicated by the law '*similia similibus*,' will promptly and safely cure this patient, and we are not disappointed in the result. This is experience and not theory only—this is fact, and not mere speculation.



## LAWS OF HEALTH.

Let an individual, naturally possessing a good constitution, free from taint or any innate dynamic cause of disturbance to the equal distribution and healthy action of the vital force, take nothing into his stomach but that which is naturally adapted to its functions, of easy digestion, and suitable for every purpose of nutrition. Let him breathe pure air, which shall produce the requisite changes in the blood, and exercise his physical powers in such a manner as to secure their full developement, and his mental powers in a manner adapted to give perfection of form and consistence to the brain, upon which the vital action and appropriate functions of every part or organ of his system depends. Let him, further, observe such hours of sleep as may be demanded by a healthy exercise of his bodily and mental powers; securing by water ablutions, the cleanliness and true functions of the skin, and, finally, avoiding exposure to noxious influences and unnecessary fatigue. Such an individual will have secured a basis of health, if he will not have rendered himself invulnerable to the attacks of disease; or, if he should be affected by those of a specific nature, they would be of a light, superficial character, from which he need apprehend no serious or fatal effects, and which would be directly and easily cured by a remedy selected upon the principle, *similia similibus curantur*. And, at last, escaping accidents, he would die from a natural waste of the powers of life, free from pain and suffering.

Assuming these premises to be true, and they are so considered by many or all physiologists, the first condition to the enjoyment of perfect health, to wit, the inheritance or possession of a sound and vigorous constitution, free from any sort of taint, will bring us at once to the consideration of the origin and propagation of disease.

## HOMŒOPATHY, ALLOPATHY AND YOUNG PHYSIC.

BY JAMES QUIN, M. D.

"The effects of malaria, in penetrating the system, and giving rise, in some instances, to rapidly fatal symptoms, are also well known; yet no one has ever been able to detect any specific matter of contagion, although many attempts have been made. It is said that an inveterate ague was produced by the canal at Versailles, though it was little larger than a fish-

pond. It is the opinion of Dr. McCulloch and that of several Italian physicians, that a single inspiration of malaria may be quite sufficient to cause disease. Lancisi says, that as thirty ladies and gentlemen were making an excursion of pleasure up the Tiber, the wind suddenly shifted to the south, coming over the Pontine marshes, and twenty-nine were instantly taken ill only one escaping. Indeed, so subtle is its influence, that in the case of vessels lying off an unhealthy shore, the difference of half a cable's length from the coast, has caused vessels to suffer or escape."

How much matter is there in the atmosphere that thus deals disease and death on every hand? Again; a single grain of musk will diffuse its perfume for years in a room, the air of which may be renewed daily, and yet at the expiration of the time the perfume will be as strong as at first, and the grain of musk will still weigh a grain: now, as smelling is produced by the particles of the aromatic substance flying off and coming in contact with the olfactory nerve, what must be the size and number of decillions of decillions of particles, whose aggregate weight amounts (appreciably) to nothing at all? Why, compared with them, the atoms of the highest homœopathic attenuation are as mountains to the sands on the sea-shore. We think Dr. Forbes has here a fine field for the exercise of his arithmetical powers. Nay, still farther, the very operations of the mind—hope, fear, joy and grief, have severally produced sudden effects, altogether beyond the power of the most "heroic" allopathic drug. Instances are not rare, of persons being struck dumb by terror, and of others restored from that state by the same cause. Many persons have had their hair turned gray, in one night, nay on the instant, from sudden fright. Where has been the *materiæ morbi* in all these instances? Away then with the childishness which seeks *material* causes for appreciable effects!

In reference to the doubts in regard to the efficacy of the homœopathic doses, Mr. Sampson says:

"Now it is difficult to conceive the reasons which have induced this doubt. Medicines are given to act upon the various tissues of the human frame, and even the coarsest of these tissues present a delicacy of structure which it is impossible for us more than faintly to appreciate. A little reflection, indeed, will convince us that there must be some portions of our organization, of the fineness of which the human mind would be inadequate to form the slightest conception.



It will also appear that these structures are of far higher importance towards the maintenance of his life than the coarser or more outward portions of the frame, and that disease becomes dangerous and severe in proportion to the extent to which they are affected. In the most deep-seated affections, therefore, it is to these tissues that the powers of medicine have to be directed: and when we know that medicinal substances, like all material bodies, are infinitely divisible: that we can never, by any process, reduce them to atoms so fine but that they might still be infinitely reduced; it seems at once obvious, that if we wish them to reach and act upon those parts to which I have alluded, and in relation to some of the delicate machinery of which the finest atoms to be attained from our very highest attenuations would appear coarse and ponderable, we must endeavor to bring them not only into a finer state than that in which they are ordinarily used, but into a state of exigency far beyond anything to which we have been accustomed in dealing with coarser structures. It is simply, in fact, proportioning the delicacy of our agents to the delicacy of the instruments upon which they are to operate. 'From the rapidity and infinite variety of the phenomena of proportion,' says Sir Humphrey Davy, 'it seems extremely probable that there must be in the brain some nervous matter of a nature far more subtle and refined than anything discovered in them by observation and experiment; and that the immediate connexion between the sentient principle and the body may be established by kinds of ethereal matter which can never be made evident to the senses.'\*

That this view is a correct one, few will be disposed to question. 'We cannot entertain a doubt,' Sir Humphrey Davy farther observes, 'but that every change in our sensations and ideas must be accompanied with some corresponding change in the organic matter of the body; and when it is thus considered that our very thoughts must, in order to their permanence and manifestation in this life, be impressed on our nervous system, and that the recurrence of some specific idea, though, perhaps, a trivial accidental circumstance, after a lapse of forty or fifty years, or the remembrance of a particular spot seen only once during our lives, or of some particular odour or taste, must all depend upon certain conditions of our material structure caused at the time of the occurrence of the events

to which they relate, we see at once how completely we are carried behind the bonds of our ordinary conception, and how ignorant or thoughtless those persons must be who assert that of course agents will not reach and act upon the higher structures of the system, it "impossible and incredible that finer ones should succeed."'

Again:

"It is well known that the faculty of absorption is observed to take place with the greatest facility in those tissues which are characterized by a fine and delicate structure and great vascularity; and it is obvious that, according to the minuteness of the medicinal agent, must be the facility with which it is received into these parts. So far, therefore, from there being any thing wonderful in the circumstance of the infinitesimal doses of the homœopaths producing effects such as have never been observed to arise from the administration of medicines in a coarser form, it would be, to those who consider the facts just referred to, and who are accustomed to contemplate "the mysterious and recondite phenomena of organized being," a legitimate source of surprise if such circumstances were not observable. Some of the vessels of the system must be so small, that a hair, in comparison with them, would probably present as much difference in relative size as there is between a needle and a mast of a ship; and it is upon structures such as these that medicines are required to act."

\* \* \* \* \*

Now supposing it an object to affect these parts by medicine, which mode of administering them, would a rational person—even without reference to experience, but merely judging from what he would consider *probable*—be disposed to regard with the most favorable anticipations? Knowing the delicacy of the human system, and the avidity with which nature at once seizes upon all aids to restore it from peril, would he be disposed to feel surprise upon a medicine, known to have a particular relation to the affected organ, and divided into atoms so small as to bear some relation to the delicacy of that organ, being bound to produce a palpable effect, while comparatively crude masses of the same substance would produce nothing but disturbance to the coarser structures, which structures would immediately perform an effort to neutralize or expel them.\*

\* Consolations in Travel, p. 214.

+ When poisons have been taken in a state of

We all know that a moderate sized pebble may be applied to the surface of the eye without producing any unpleasant effect; while, if the same pebble were reduced to a powder, and one atom of that powder were applied to the same part the most unendurable symptoms would immediately arise.

There is a curious case, also mentioned on the authority of Dr. King, of Brighton, who dined one day in company with a lady, who went into convulsions as soon as her plate was put before her, owing to its containing some peas which had been boiled with mint. She was carried out of the room, and did not entirely recover all the evening.

Certain odours, as musk, the odour of the rose, various flowers, &c., are, in many asthmatics followed by distinct fits; and exposure to effluvia or subtle vapours, as those of ipecacuanha, frequently produce similar consequences.

\* \* \* \* \*

There is a case equally remarkable, showing the effects of ipecacuanha in this disease, recorded by Dr. Scott, in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1776. The patient was the wife of an apothecary, and became subject to regular attacks of asthma after her marriage. For some years no particular cause was suspected; but it was at length discovered that the paroxysm invariably came on when ipecacuanha was powdered in the shop. This practice was accordingly discontinued, and she continued well eight or ten years, until one day when her husband again brought home some powdered ipecacuanha, and opened the packet in order to put the drug into a bottle, 'his wife not being far off at the time, and in perfect health.' This occasioned a most violent fit of asthma, which lasted eight days, becoming better during the day, and much worse at night."

How much ipecacuanha did this druggist's wife inhale? what was its weight? what would it look like, if put on the end of a pen-knife? Shame on such material doctrines!

To be Continued.)

### HOMŒOPATHIA REVEALED.

*A brief exposition of the whole system, adapted to general comprehension, with a notice of psora, and Dr. Düring's objections, By ALEXIS EUSTAPHIEVE. Second edition, &c Inscribed to JOHN FORBES, M. D., F. R. S.*

This is an octavo pamphlet of 100 pages,

*minute division, it is singular how ineffectual vomiting proves in expelling them from the stomach.—Christison.*

printed and published by D. FANSHAW, 375 Broadway, N. Y.

This work first appeared in 1837, and we remember to have read it at that time with approbation. It is now somewhat enlarged by an able introduction, addressed to JOHN FORBES, M. D. F. R. S., and from which we take the following extract, to which we ask the close attention of our readers.

"Be it then known to you, that since the publication of my little work in 1837, I have made my pilgrimage to the living fountain of Homœopathia—have gazed upon the countenance, listened to the voice, and pressed the hand of 'the sublime old man,' ere long to be enshrined by grateful posterity among the greatest benefactors of mankind. I did more. I laid my humble revelations before him, and was honored with his unqualified approbation. The doctrines and principles laid down in them as the constituent elements of Homœopathia, were pronounced true and genuine by him from whom she sprang, as did Minerva from the brain of Jupiter. The means as therein explained, which attest her existence and modify her action, were in like manner acknowledged by him who first discovered, adjusted, and put them into practice. In short, he that conceived the bright original, and breathed his spirit into it, recognized its embodied image in the portrait.

In such circumstances, I trust, you will not think it strange or unpardonable that I should speak, and think it even my duty to speak of my work as I would of another man's work with the same sincerity and freedom. In truth, I feel that it has gone from me—that it belongs now to the public, not to be deprived of its property by my interposition. It is so far ahead of the author that he perforce must part with it, and be content to rest unnoticed in the rear. Other hands, more powerful than his, have placed it on the summit of authority, and there it must stand, palpable to sight, a beacon by whose light the true and false disciples may at once be contradistinguished and identified. The former will hail it with cordial welcome, the latter may be compelled to show cause why they should not be numbered with those whom the great master spirit had DISOWNED so formally and on all occasions.

A work of this character was never needed more than at the present hour, when a laxity on one side, and encroachments on the other, have placed the deity of health in that false, inverted position, against the danger of which the public



cannot be too soon or too officiously warned. It is quite time to stop, if possible the immolation of victims on the altar, and in the name of the very power that was sent forth to save them; and the martyr who felt the rack may well be permitted the poor consolation of showing where it lies, by way of caution to his fellow creatures.

I have reason to think that among the opponents of homœopathia, none is more aware than yourself, or less disposed to deny that the majority of the votaries of allopathia, imbued, as heretofore, with a sense of her supposed dignity and scholastic superiority, still shunned the tabooed dwelling of the new comer; and acting on mere reports and assumptions, condemn what they refuse to know, and think it a disgrace in a matter of life and death to be able to judge for themselves. What particular medicine more than another cures this or that disease, seems to be the utmost stretch of their inquiry; but why—by what permanent, inherent quality this medicine performs the cure is a question, which although the true one, is scarcely ever asked. The curative effects of a remedy in presence of disease, gleaned from the pages of pharmacopœia, seems to be all they know or care to know of its specific virtues; whereas this knowledge, so vital to the healing art, can only be obtained from its primary aggressive actions upon a person in full health; a fact, the discovery of which by Hahnemann, suffices of itself to gain for him the gratitude of ages. From this admitted fact, susceptible of proof so as to stare one in the face, they turn away with marvellous indifference; and while they are so active in distilling science, skill, rational medicine, and all kinds of imposing learning from their lips, their real locomotive progress ceases just where it should go on. They certainly have learned the value of the stranger's pharmacy as far superior to their own, else, they would scarcely make so free with it; but then what led to the discovery of medicines in substances not used as such, though not unknown by name, and on what principle those are and ought to be selected, they seem to consider beyond the sphere of their profession. Hence it is that they either do not know, or will not own, that at this very moment they are treading in the steps of their opponents, and differ from them only in the want of precaution. While they continue to denounce poor homœopathia as a sheer humbug, and while their unleashed war dogs bark as loud as ever at her passing shadow, they are actually doing homage to her fundamental creed, "the

like cure the like," by her administering her remedies, not only so far as each remedy becomes strictly homœopathic when directed against a disease the like of which it produces in a healthy person, but in the sense of full unqualified acceptance of such as are emphatically her own and stand conspicuously on her list. Thus, in *congestions to the head; scarlatinas, acute inflammatory fevers, inflammatory fevers, inflammation of the lungs, croup, trachitis, peripneumonia, and final consumptions*, varying in kind, but alike in their fatal terminations, they give *Belladonna, Aconite, quinine, iron, ipœcacuanâ, and tartar-emetiç*, all which respectively produce the like diseases in the normal state of the body, and in so high a degree as to cause death if persevered in, or not soon enough suspended.

This is what they are doing now, and this is neither more or less than the veritable homœopathia herself!! A step farther this way, and all would be right; but they refuse to take this step, and then what follows is a wanton abuse of means, a bare-face disregard of the laws of inference, and an unnatural violation of the cause by its effects. It is in advance so far as there is less groping in the dark, less guesswork in the drug compounds, less latitude and fancy in prescriptions; but it is an advance that stops just where it cuts the patient off from all the benefits of old uncertainty, and from all chances of escape by means of blunders that were wont to contradict each other.

Nature alone being invested with the power of cure, a remedy can do no more harm than, by a dynamic union, add so much of its strength to the disease as to insure his spoil of life, or so little as just to quicken his growth into maturity, and end the monster before her vital forces are exhausted. Whether of this important truth they have any suspicion, or studiously conceal it, they in either case evade the obvious conclusion, that comminution of doses is not a matter of caprice, but the result of absolute necessity, inasmuch as the organ cannot be too tenderly used, which, in addition to the morbid action of disease, already so enfeebling, has to sustain the like remedial action of a more than equal power. The consequence is, that they had the raging conflagration with nothing but combustibles to check it, and thus add fuel to the flame, when they ought to have kindled the small counter fire, as certain to extinguish as it is sure to meet it. Persuaded that what they do not know is not worth knowing, and resolved to stand by each other, come what may, they rack the victim with their noxious drugs

at pleasure, pour poison upon poison, and when death ensues they make homœopathia their scape goat, by proclaiming that in their hands the patient would have died without an effort on her part to save him !

The peril arising from this hateful practice is farther increased by the corresponding course, the more criminal, as no plea of ignorance can be set up in its behalf, of the *pseudo-homœopathists*, who, unfortunately, are neither strangers to this city, nor so far as to be passed by without notice.

These birds of a feather forming a recent clique by themselves, cannot but remember that all their knowledge of homœopathia has been gathered from her lips ; that their own shells were not yet formed when she broke hers ; and fostered by the parent-hand soon in full plumage started into view ; and that the chickens, wise enough to teach the hen, must first be hatched and fledged. Nevertheless they peck at their kind instructress, cluck correction in her ears, and cry out what she ought to be, on the insulting claim to know her better than she does herself !!! Extravagance of presumption and the ingratitude of pupils can go no further !

In vain did the inspired genius whose glorious conception she is, protest against her character being degraded, her credit destroyed, her name desecrated, and her blessings converted into curses, by a forced union with some unclean abortion of the superannuated *alma mater*. The clique compel her to endure the embraces of the hoary, decrepid slanderer. They fix the lancet in her hands, load her with the forbidden weapons, and fully verify his worst fears and predictions. In vain did he, more anxiously solicitous on this point than any other, insist upon the comminution of doses as inseparable from her very nature and existence. The clique increase them *con amore*, and under the cover of his very mantle spurn upon his gift, reject his doctrine, and cry down as a mere 'Hahnemannism,' the most precious fruit of his protracted labors and painful self-experiments !! And yet, forsooth, in face of all this they profess their faith in homœopathia !! Derision and hypocrisy never went so lovingly together !

The only article of faith connected with homœopathy, is '*similis similibus curantur*.' It is her all in all, with which she cannot part herself without committing suicide. This, then, if anything, must be what they believe in. If so, upon what principle can they defend, and much less, justify their practice so subversive of their

own belief, that the increased strength of a dose which is akin to the disease, must be the like increase of strength for the disease itself ; and superadded to its own, must make it irresistible ? They have assigned yet no good reason, and likely never will. They may attempt to explain by saying, for it is all they can say, that it is the result of their own experience ; but what is their own puny experience to that of one whose temple had been for more years than they have yet lived, crowded with the sick from the great nations of the earth, who had for half a century perilled his body as a test of remedies announced by him as such, and whose ability to state the truth was full as great as his desire and interest to seek and to reveal it. Empiricism may plume itself upon its feats of cure, which only show that there are patients strong enough to survive them ; but the great shade of Hahnemann, and his tried, faithful disciples, have a claim to a more respectful explanation than such as would impugn the warranty of facts too much respected to be called in question. If the clique really have a pet—some *pathia* of their own—why do they keep it back ? Why do they not come forth like men, place it on its own merits, and boldly vindicate its title to 'a name and local habitation ?' If, on the other hand, they should set up the honest plea of total disbelief in homœopathia, why do they wear her colors, and profess to be what they are not ? Why should they make her, by this fraud, a mere by-word, a seeming humbug, the scape-goat of their own misdeeds ? Why should the open frequency of their rebellion against her rule, furnish her enemies with a constructive proof that she and all her followers who thus betray their want of confidence in her, are arrant knaves, quacks and impostors ? The clique may be all kinds of *pathists* at their own discretion ; but homœopathists they are none, and it is time that all should know it. A voice from the tomb, that will be heard throughout eternity, abjures them all as base, sinister counterfeits, foes in disguise, stabbing the priestess in whose temple they profess to worship. The sooner they are driven away from the sacred precincts the greater will be the benefit conferred upon the human race.

Thus, by a sort of a tacit, gradual approximation of the adverse systems, the champions on both sides being false alike to their creeds, the two extremes have been brought at length to meet at half way, and presently, from this unhallowed contact, not yet openly acknowledged, sprang the new-fangled mischief, the prac-



tice now in vogue, nought less than homœopathia armed to the teeth with allopathic doses ! —An enemy more dangerous and destructive to health than this hideous, misbegotten hermaphrodite, has never yet been pressed into the service of the medical profession !

We recommend all who feel an interest in the progress of truth in the healing art to read this work.

### ART OF MEDICINE.

From the time of the first application of drugs, in the treatment of diseases, there has been a lamentable want of fixed and well known principles to guide the physician in their administration. Hence, they have always been used experimentally, hence the unlimited multiplication of remedies and the incessant change in their use. For, there being no known and established relation between the different drugs, and the great variety in the form of disease, it has been impossible to establish either permanency or uniformity. What would at one time cure or relieve one man, would at another fail to do this or else aggravate his state—what would favorably effect one constitution, or disease in one individual, often produced an adverse effect in another ; and hence a series of changes in remedies, doses and manner of administering, till it has come at last to be fairly admitted, (and lamented,) that the means for curing the sick are inadequate, uncertain, and generally injurious ; so that other means must be devised, other and more perfect knowledge of therapeutic agents must be had or the system must end.

Besides the want of a general and fundamental principle in therapeutics for the cure of ordinary attacks of diseases, the latent chronic maladies have never been arrested in their progress, but have been left to work their sure, but slow course in undermining the system and terminating, prematurely, and with fatal certainty, the life of the poor patient, after years of unmitigated suffering. The fact of failure in curing chronic affections is a death-blow to the whole art, for the acute outbreaks of disease will yield to a thousand means of relief, and in the majority of cases, to the powers of unassisted nature ; and in those cases, which are exceptions to this remark, there is disease of a latent kind, which remains uncured perhaps not even arrested, notwithstanding an outbreak of it may have been palliated and

relieved for the time, by bleeding, blistering, emetics, cathartics, or steaming, it matters little which.

Disease having a dynamic origin, has never been eradicated, except by accident, and this accident has been upon a principle unknown to the physician or patient.

That chronic maladies have their origin in a limited number of cases, is most unquestionable, and these are beyond doubt, of a specific character, and requiring specific treatment for their eradication, when once they have disturbed the vital powers. Till the discovery (made by Hahnemann) of the true origin of chronic maladies, and of the specific curative powers of drugs, and the law for their application, they have never (except in accidental and occasional cases when drugs have been specifically administered) been cured. But since the discovery, not only Hahnemann, but those who have acknowledged the truth of his doctrine, and adopted his method of treating disease, have been successful in the treatment of these maladies.

Many sufferings and difficulties often resembling those produced by a latent miasm, are caused by exposure to noxious influences ; bad air, unwholesome diet, over indulgence in eating and drinking, want of proper exercise, or over exertion of the physical and mental powers, irregular hours of sleep, neglect of healthful ablutions, depressing mental affections, &c. These affections need only an attention to the laws of health for their eradication ; but those produced by the poisoning influence of some specific miasm, which may have been inherited, or contracted in infancy, require for their eradication *specific remedies*, administered upon a (now) well known law of cure, and which the homœopathic physician alone is enabled to apply. The vital powers, of themselves, can never rid the system of them—neither will any amount of care and attention to the general state of the system, or conditions of health, serve for this purpose. This discovery, the greatest that has ever been made, while it furnishes the medical profession with a principle upon which they may establish true science, and is the very desideratum so long sought after, and so confident of discovery, is destined to work a complete revolution in the healing art, and not only this, but in all the social and physical relations of human life.

“ The principles upon which homœopathia is founded, and the services it renders to suffering humanity, prove that this is the system

of medicine which has been so long and so vainly sought after till the present day."

### WHOOPING COUGH.

There are several drugs which are appropriate to the different conditions of whooping cough; but our object in calling attention to this disease at this time is, to caution mothers and others against the too free use of *Ipecacuanha*, in cases where this drug is homœopathic to the disease, as the difficulty would in such case be greatly increased, and fatal consequence ensue from the administration of this drug in large doses. In whooping cough, attended by "dry, shaking, and *spasmodic cough*, and *fits of suffocation*; stiffness of the body and bluish face; with bleeding from the nose and mouth, and vomiting of food, *ipecacuanha* is the remedy, and should be given in a high attenuation. We have had three cases of this disease under treatment for the last three days, with symptoms similar to the above; each child took a teaspoonful every four hours of a solution of *ipecacuanha*, of the 30th potency. The most severe case of the three, to our astonishment, was decidedly relieved in twelve hours; the effect upon the others was not as strongly marked, yet there was enough to satisfy us that the drug, in this potency, was exerting a favorable influence upon the disease.

We have been politely furnished by Mr. C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth Street, Philadelphia, with two copies of the Transactions of the American Institute of Homœopathy, vol. 1, of which he is the publisher; this is a vol. (duodecimo) of 300 pages, handsomely bound, and contains the minutes of the second and third sessions of the Institute; the report of the Central Bureau for the augmentation and improvement of the *Materia Medica*, which exhibits a careful and zealous discharge of its duties; together with the history and pathogenetic powers of the following remedies:

*Acidum Benzoicum*, by Jacob Jeans, M. D.  
*Lobelia Inflata* " "  
*Acidum Fluoricum*, by Constantine Hering, M. D.  
*Kalmia Latifolia*,  
*Acidum Oxalicum*, by Charles Neidhard, M. D.

*Elaterium*, by C. B. Matthews, M. D.  
*Eupatorium Perfoliatum*, by Walter Williamson, M. D.

*Podophyllum Peltatum*, " "

*Triosteum Perfoliatum*, " "

*Lobelia Cardinalis*, by Samuel R. Dubs, M. D.

*Sanguinaria Canadensis*.

And a repertorium by

WM. P. ESREY, M. D.

No commendation other than the fact of the self sacrificing spirit, the arduous and painful labors, the severe sufferings, and hazard to health and life, need be bestowed upon those, who, from a love of science and regard for the sufferings of humanity, thus make trials of drugs upon their own persons. This work should be in the hands of every physician.

### THE SPIRIT OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC DOCTRINE.

BY SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

*Translated by Geddes M. Scott, M. D., of Glasgow, Scotland.*

"From seeming evil still educing good."

To know the essence of diseases, and the hidden changes which they effect in the body, is beyond the reach of the human understanding; there is, therefore, an absurdity in pretending to found the treatment upon conjectures formed on this subject. We cannot guess the curative virtue of medicines by means of chemical hypothesis, nor by the impressions which they produce on the smell, the sight, or the taste: it is, therefore, equally absurd to endeavor, in accordance with presumptions which arise from such a source, to apply to the curing of diseases, substances, the misuse of which is attended with so much risk. In vain should such a method plead the general custom in its favor, or even that it is the only one which has been followed for thousands of years—it is not, on that account, the less opposed to nature and to the interests of mankind to assume as truths, vague hypotheses with regard to the essential nature of diseases, and to combat them with medicinal virtues equally hypothetical.

It is necessary that our senses should be able clearly to discern what it is in each malady that must be removed in order to restore health



and that each medicine should express, in a distinct and appreciable manner, what it can cure with certainty, before we can be in a condition to employ it against any disease whatever. Without this, the practice of medicine will not cease to be a kind of lottery in which the life of our fellow creatures is the stake, and it will never become a means of relief to the sick. I propose to show what is presented to us in diseases, which is really capable of cure, and what method we must adopt to convince ourselves of the curative virtues which medicines possess, in order that we may afterwards employ these substances as remedies.

Life can be known only empirically, i. e. through its manifestations or phenomena, and it is absolutely impossible to form an idea of it *a priori*, by means of metaphysical speculations. Never shall mortals perceive, never shall they discover by conjectures, what life is in itself, and in its intimate essence.

The life of man and its two conditions—health and sickness—cannot be explained by any of the principles which serve to explain other objects. Life cannot be compared to anything in the world except itself. No relation subsists between it and a hydraulic or other machine, a chemical operation, a decomposition and production of gas, or a galvanic battery. In a word, it resembles nothing which does not live.

(To be Continued.)

### THIRD ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHIA.

*At Philadelphia, on Wednesday, May 13,  
1846.*

The meeting was fully attended. Members were present from all the Northern, and from many Western and Southern States—from Maine, Missouri, and Virginia.

The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed; there was evidently an exalted spirit of confidence, energy, and zeal actuating the minds and influencing the conduct of those present; and the accounts given of the rapid advancement of the Homœopathic doctrine, and the Homœopathic practice throughout the country, were truly gratifying and satisfactory. In truth its progress and success may challenge comparison with that of any science or

any reformation in any age of the world. Much important information was received, many measures were adopted that are destined to tell upon the interest and prosperity of the Institute, and of true art in medicine. Subjects were introduced that gave rise to highly interesting and eloquent discussions, and the Institute adjourned with strengthened hopes, elevated purposes and increased zeal in the promotion of true science in the healing art, and the happiness and prosperity of the human race, so far as the laws of health and life are concerned.

Dr. S. R. Kirby, of New York, was elected President, and Drs. Edward Bayard and R. A. Snow, also of New York, were elected secretaries.

The "Central Bureau" for the reformation and augmentation of the *Materia Medica*, made a report which was in a printed volume; entitled, "Vol. I. of the Transactions of the American Institute of Homœopathy."—This work is noticed in another column of this Journal.

Dr. Simon F. Havens, of Utica, N. Y., Daniel Holt, M. D., of Lowell, Mass., and Oscar Sceitz, M. D., were admitted to membership of the Institute. The Northampton Society in Pa. announced the death of its late President, Eberhard Freytag, M. D., and Dr. Mc Manus of Baltimore, moved appropriate resolutions which were adopted.

A new Constitution and By-Laws were reported by Dr. Williamson, of Philadelphia, from the committee on that subject, and adopted.

Letters were received from Drs. W. E. Payne of Bath, Me., Wm. Price, of Cincinnati, and D. S. Smith, of Chicago, Ill.

Dr. Payne, after expressing his regret at being prevented from attending the meeting of the Institute, goes on to say, "As late as the year 1840, there was no resident practitioner of homœopathy in Maine. Previous to this time I had thought but little about it, except to regard it as one of the '*thousand and one humbugs*' of the day. My attention, however, being called to it more particularly at this period, I commenced an investigation of the subject, which resulted in a conviction of its truth, and without entering into a detail of my progress or transition from the allopathic practice to the homœopathic, as I should be glad to do, if I had time, I will say that I publicly renounced the allopathic method of practice, and determined to stand or fall by the

results of a practice according to the law, *similia similibus curantur*.

\* \* \* \* \*

Since that time, seven others have embraced it, making at this time eight regularly educated physicians in full practice. I have to add, that its prospects never appeared brighter, or more promising of universal triumph than at the present moment. That homœopathy will eventually triumph, both in the estimation of the public and over diseases, I have not a doubt. But whether its progress is to be *right* onward or not, will depend wholly upon the spirit of those who have embraced this great truth, and have courage enough to carry it forth into the world. A union of purpose among homœopathic physicians, a determined energy, and unmitigated industry, will ensure to our beloved science a more rapidly brilliant success than has ever marked the cause of any science."

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Eliphalet Clark, of Portland, Me., moved the following resolutions, which, after much interesting discussion, were unanimously adopted, *viz* :—

*Whereas*, the leading object of the American Institute of Homœopathia is the augmentation and improvement of the *Materia Medica*; therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That this Institute recommend the formation of local Homœopathic Medical Societies, on the basis of the American Institute of Homœopathia.

2. *Resolved*, That each local society be recommended to appoint a bureau for the augmentation and improvement of the *materia medica*, whose duty it shall be to send on to the Central Bureau information in relation to the following topics :

1. The effects which may be observed from the trial of new remedies, whether in health or disease; stating the precise localities of the symptoms; the times of the day at which they occur, with all the attending circumstances and conditions.

2. New symptoms, either pathogenetic or curative of medicines already, or not fully tried, which are clearly ascribable to those drugs, with the particulars of each case.

3. Symptoms of remedies which have been most frequently confirmed in popular practice, also any remarkable coincidence in popular practice, and especially in cases of poisoning.

3. *Resolved*, That it is expected that each local society will report itself annually to the Institute.

4. *Resolved*, That each member of the Institute be earnestly desired to make trial of drugs upon himself.

The Chairman appointed Walter Williamson, M. D., of Philadelphia; F. R. McManus, M. D., of Baltimore; James M. Quin, M. D., of New York; Eliphalet Clark, M. D., of Portland, Me.; and Samuel Gregg, M. D., of Boston, a Standing Committee on the Election of Members.

The General Secretary was authorized to grant certificates of membership to members at any time during the year, on receiving one dollar for the same. The following gentlemen constitute the "Central Bureau" for the coming year. Constantine Hering, M. D.; Jacob Jeans, M. D.; Charles Neidhard, M. D.; Walter Williamson, M. D., and James Kitchen, M. D., all of Philadelphia.

Dr. Jacob Jeans reported an address to physicians in the United States, which was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be published with the proceedings.

Edward Bayard, M. D., of New York, was appointed by the Chairman to deliver an address to the Institute, on the evening of the first day of the next Annual Session of the Institute, which is to be held in Boston, Mass., on the second Wednesday in June, 1847.

The following is a list of the members of the Institute :—

Adams, Henry, M. D., Coxsackie, N. Y. ;  
Adams, R. E. W., M. D., Cleveland, O.  
Anderson, M., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Andrews, J. R., M. D., Camden, N. J.  
Annin, J. D., M. D., Elizabethtown, N. J.  
Atwood, M., M. D., Francistown, N. H.

Ball, A. S., M. D., N. Y. City.  
Barlow, S. B., M. D., N. Y. City.  
Bauer, A., M. D., Cincinnati, O.  
Barrowes, Ira, M. D., Pawtucket, R. I.  
Bartlett, E. M., M. D., St. Louis, Mo.  
Bayard, Edward, M. D., N. Y. City.  
Belcher, Geo. E., M. D., N. Y. City.  
Bell, Sanford, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Belt, R. G., M. D., Plymouth, Mass.  
Bennett, H., Dr. Cayuga Co., N. Y.  
Berens, Bernard, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Berens, Joseph, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Bloss, Richard, M. D., Troy, N. Y.  
Boardman, J. C., M. D., Trenton N. J.  
Bolles, R. M., M. D., N. Y. City.  
Bowers, B. F., M. D., N. Y. City.  
Bowers, Josiah, L. D., Smithtown, L. I.  
Bradford, Richmond, M. D., Auburn, Me.  
Brown, Wm. R., M. D., Oneida Co. N. Y.  
Bryan, R. S., M. D., Troy, N. Y.  
Burritt, A. H., Dr., Burton, Geauga Co., O.  
Bute, G. H., M. D., Nazareth, Pa.

Cator, H. Hull, M. D., Syracuse, N. Y.  
Channing, Wm., M. D., N. Y. City  
Child, Amherst, M. D., Waterloo, N. Y.  
Clark, Eliphalet, M. D., Portland, Me.  
Clark P., Dr., Coventry, R. I.  
Cook, Geo. W., M. D., N. Y. City.



Cook, A. P., M. D., Hudson, N. Y.  
 Critenden, W. H., Dr., Bergen Co., N. J.  
 Crittenden, J., Dr., Morris Co., N. J.  
 Crosby, —, Dr., Akron, Summit Co., O.

Detwiler, H., M. D., Hellertown, Pa.  
 Dubs, Samuel R., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Dunnell, H. G., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Dutcher, B. C., M. D., N. Y. City.

Ehrman, B., Dr., Lancaster, Pa.  
 Ehrman, F., Dr., Hagerstown, Md.  
 Ehrman, F., Dr., Baltimore Md.  
 Esrey, W. P., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.

Fairchild, S., M. D., Parsippany, N. J.  
 Flagg, Josiah F., M. D. Boston, Mass.  
 Freeman, G., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Fuller, Milton, M. D., Medford, Mass.

Gallup, Wm., M. D., Bangor, Me.  
 Gardiner, Richard, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Gardiner, W. A., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Gilbert, Jas. B., M. D., Savannah, Ga.  
 Gosewisch, C., M. D., Wilmington, Del.  
 Gray, John F., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Green, J., M. D., Washington, D. C.  
 Gregg, Samuel, M. D., Boston, Mass.  
 Guernsey, H. N., M. D., Frankford, Pa.

Hale, Eben, M. D., Boston, Mass.  
 Hallock, L., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Harris, Z. H., Dr., N. Y. City.  
 Havens, S. F., M. D. Utica, N. Y.  
 Haynel, A. F., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Helmuth, Wm. S., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Hempel, C. J., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Hering, C., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Holt, Daniel, M. D., Lowell, Mass.  
 Hoyt, D. O., M. D., Cleveland, Ohio.  
 Hull, A. G., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Hull, A. Cook, M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Humphreys, E., Dr., Utica, N. Y.

Ingalls, Wm., Sen., M. D. Boston, Mass.

James, D., M. D., Byberry, Pa.  
 James, Isaac, M. D., Holmesburg, Pa.  
 Janney, D., Dr., Loudon Co., Va.  
 Jeanes, Jacob, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Jones, E. D., M. D., Albany, N. Y.  
 Joslin, B. F., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Kern, B. J., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Kimball, D. S., Dr., N. Y. City.  
 Kirby, S. R., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Kitchen, James, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.

Leon, Alexis, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Lingen, Geo., M. D. Yellow Springs, Pa.  
 Lippe, A., M. D., Carlisle, Pa.  
 Loomis, J. G., M. D., Syracuse, N. Y.  
 Lovejoy, E., M. D., Oswego, N. Y.

Mairs, J., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Manchester, C. E., M. D., Pawtucket, R. I.  
 McManus, F. R., M. D., Baltimore, Md.  
 Matthews, Caleb B., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 McVickar, J. A., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Merrill, John, M. D., —, Me.  
 Morrel, —, Dr., Akron, Summit Co., O.  
 Neidhard, Chas., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Okie, A. H., M. D., Providence, R. I.  
 Orme, John, M. D., Pennsylvania.

Paine, Henry, M. D., Albany N. Y.

Paine, John A., M. D., Newark, N. J.  
 Payne, John, M. D., Belfast, Me.  
 Payne, W. E., M. D., Bath, Me.  
 Palmer, W. C., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Peak, J. M., Dr., Cooperstown, N. Y.  
 Pehrson, J. G., M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Peirson, E. D., M. D., N. Y. City.  
 Piper, J. R., M. D., Washington, D. C.  
 Price, Wm., M. D., Cincinnati, Ohio.  
 Pulte, J. H., M. D., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Quin, Jas., M., N. Y. City.

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 Rhees, Morgan J., M. D., Mount Holly, N. J.  
 Robinson, H., M. D., Auburn, N. Y.  
 Romig, J., M. D., Allentown, Pa.  
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 Williams, C. D., M. D., Cleveland, O.  
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 Wilsey, F. L., M. D., N. Y. City.  
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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. I.

New-York, Saturday, June 6, 1846.

NO. 4.

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DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

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**J. H. Tobitt, Printer,**

No. 9 Spruce-street, New-York.

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This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance; single copies six cents, or five copies for four dollars. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 592 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway; and at Van Beuren's, 223 Bleeker street.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 Broadway.

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## AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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New-York, Saturday, June 6, 1846.

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### MATERIA MEDICA.

The Allopathic School of Medicine does not deny the imperfection of its materia medica. And we know the fact, that for hundreds of years no real improvement has been made in it; and we can see no way that will lead to an improvement of it, unless it be that marked out by Haller, and practiced by Hahnemann. It would seem as if the Allopathic School had given up, perhaps in despair, any further efforts to perfect this branch of medical science; as evidence of this, a cursory examination of

the Medical Journals, both of this country and of Europe, will show, that of late very little is said of drugs. Perhaps the *London Lancet* speaks the real opinion of that school on this subject when it says "overgrown works of this kind [Materia medica] only tend to elevate into undue importance the study of drugs, and to obstruct the student in his way to the higher branches of medical science." This is a remarkable sentiment, and it makes known to us what we did not know, that the knowledge of drugs in the allopathic school takes an inferior rank in medical science. We in our simplicity had thought and believed that to know disease, and to know drugs, are equally important, and that the one would be practically useless without the other; and we cannot divest ourselves of the conviction that this is true, the *Lancet*, to the contrary notwithstanding.

A knowledge of the effects and curative powers of drugs we conceive to be of vital importance, it is a *sine qua non* in the practice of medicine. Of what importance is it to physicians to be able to classify, arrange, and detect diseases; to expatiate upon *pathology*, *diagnosis* or *prognosis*, if they remain ignorant of the means of curing such conditions?

If the object in the attainment of a knowledge of the "higher branches of medical science" is not to be able to cure disease, pray what can it be? If it has not this end, to what purpose shall the student wend his *unobstructed* way to such knowledge? If he is not ultimately to cure disease by a legitimate and specific application of drugs, what will his knowledge of the "higher branches of medical science" avail him for that purpose? Such a doctrine is so monstrously stupid and pernicious that we find it difficult to conceive how it ever could have poisoned the mind of any *physician*, much more the mind of a *professor* of medical science.



How admirably does the language of Hahnemann contrast with a sentiment so destitute of truth, sense and principle.

"The first and *sole* duty of the physician is to restore health to the sick. This is the true art of healing.

"His mission is not, as many physicians (who wasting their time and powers in the pursuit of fame) have imagined it to be, that of inventing systems by stringing together empty ideas and hypotheses upon the immediate essence of life and the origin of disease in the interior of the human economy; nor is it that of continually endeavouring to account for the morbid phenomena with their nearest cause (which must for ever remain concealed) and confounding the whole in unintelligible words and pompous observations which makes a deep impression on the minds of the ignorant, while the patients are left to sigh in vain for relief. We have already too many of these learned reveries which bear the name of medical theories, and for the inculcation of which, even special professorships have been established. It is high time that all those who call themselves physicians should cease to deceive suffering humanity with words that have no meaning, and begin to act—that is to say, to afford relief, and cure the sick in reality.

"The perfection of a cure consists in restoring health in a prompt, mild, and permanent manner; in removing and annihilating disease by the shortest, safest, and most certain means upon principles that are at once plain and intelligible.

"When the physician clearly perceives the *curative indication* in each particular case of disease—when he is acquainted with the *therapeutic effects of medicines* individually—when guided by evident reasons, he knows how to make such an application of that which is curative in medicine to that which is indubitably diseased in the patient (both in regard to the choice of the substances, the precise dose to be administered, and the time of repeating it) that a cure may necessarily follow—and finally when he knows what are the obstacles to the cure, and can render the latter permanent by removing them;—*then only can he accomplish his purpose in a rational manner—then only can he merit the title of a genuine physician, or a man skilled in the art of healing.*"

The classification of drugs as found in the ordinary *materia medica*, originated and exists in mere speculation, it has no real foundation, it is not only absurd but is an evil. Hahne-

mann on this subject said, "Though the *materia medica* can, in truth, only proceed from experience, yet has it been subjected to arbitrary opinions."

Yet has it been subjected to arbitrary opinions, ideal dreams, and hypotheses, to-day moulded into one form, and to-morrow another, according to the dictate of the system of medicine which, for the time, happened to reign. The remedies which were applied by the ancients, a *silexcephmica*, *cephalica*, *splenica*, *uterina*, were afterwards called to undertake offices of antispasmodics, and nervines. When medicine accepted the notions of rigidity and relaxation (*strictum and laxum*) as the principal element of diseases, all the remedies which had served under other avocations were crowded into the one or the other of these two divisions. When, however, the science began to require means to purify the blood, or to destroy morbid matters, the self-same drugs, which had been called tonics, or sedatives, or diaphoretics, or eccoprotics, or diuretics, were rapidly re-coined into *mundificantia*, *antiscorbutica*, *antiscrofulosa*, &c. When Brown followed with his necessity for the two forms of remedial means, those which exalted, and those which depressed the excitability, then the same medicines, which before had been arranged in so many ranks, were immediately set down for one or the other of his two regiments; and as he had particular need of diffusible and permanent stimulants the spirit of dictation found a ready expedient. Rapidly were the medicines transformed into one or the other of these titular classes; just as if it depended upon dictation, and as if the remedy were upon the command of a medical graduate, to undertake, according to volition, the one or the other function. Just as if the influence of the *cinchona* should diffuse itself less rapidly through the organism, or should, in its secondary effects, remain much longer in the system than the equally unknown *opium*!

The system-maker, as matters have hitherto stood, need only to decree which new character this or that medicine should perform, whether it should be a *revertens*, or an *invertens*, or a *torpens*, (Darwin;) and lo! it must submit to be used for the task until it should become necessary to re-baptize it for another new system, and it should again, in the same decretal manner, be desired for another purpose. "But," I hear it replied, "if the operation of the remedies were pointed out in their chemical elements, as according to the very latest of sys-



tems is done, then shall we proceed upon principles of right reason.' According to this idea, the remedies will again be classed (just as arbitrarily) into the carbonized, the hydrogenized, &c. &c., and to each of these arbitrary classes will be assigned a particular style of operating. But the blue cabbage, roast-beef, and the oaten-cake, do not lack of a rich allowance of azote, carbon, or hydrogen; where do their medicinal powers hide themselves, when they are so fully ascribed to the other articles containing the same constituents?

*"What is to become of the science which rules over human life so long as mere fancy, and arbitrary sentiment, controls its principle elements?"*

### HOMŒOPATHY, ALLOPATHY & YOUNG PHYSIC.

BY JAMES M. QUIN, M. D.

Dr. Forbes notices the report of Dr. Fleischman, physician to the Hospital of the Sisters of Charity in Vienna, during a period of eight years, from the beginning of 1835 to the end of 1843. The number of patients, all of whom were treated Homœopathically, 6551, of whom 407 died: being 1 in 16 or a fraction over 6 per cent. Doctor Forbes sums up his opinion of the result of the treatment in the following words.

"No candid physician, looking at the original report, or at the small part of it which we have extracted, will hesitate to acknowledge that the result set forth would have been considered by him as satisfactory, if they had occurred in his own practice.

But the results presented to us in the severer internal inflammations, are certainly not such as most practical physicians would have expected to be obtained under the exclusive administration of a thousandth or a millionth, or a billionth part of a grain of phosphorus, every 2, 3 or 4 hours. It would be very unreasonable to believe that, out of 300 cases of pneumonia, 224 cases of pleurisy, and 105 cases of peritonitis, (in all 629 cases) spread over a period of eight years, *all* the cases, except the fatal ones, (27 in number) were slight, and such as would have seemed to us hardly requiring treatment of any kind. In fact, according to all experience, such could not be the case. But, independently of this *a priori* argument, we have sufficient evidence to prove that many of the cases of pneumonia, at least, were indeed severe cases. A few of these cases are reported in detail by Dr. Fleischman himself, and we have ourselves had the state-

ment corroborated by the private testimony of a physician (not homœopathist) who attended Dr. F.'s wards for three months. This gentleman watched the course of several cases of pneumonia and traced their progress, by the physical signs, through the different stages of congestion, hepatization, and resolution, up to a perfect cure, within a period of time which would have appeared short under the most energetic treatment of allopathy.

Dr. Forbes also notices Professor Henderson's cases, and observes in regard to them that they would have been regarded as very satisfactory under any mode of Allopathic treatment; that many were successful, and some of them *triumphant*! Indeed, he bestows so much praise on Professor Henderson, that the thought seems to occur to him that he is overstepping the limits of orthodox Allopathy, and thus apologises for his warmth:

"But many of our readers, we expect will be of opinion that, in admitting what we have done, we are betraying the cause of legitimate medicine, and lending our aid to extend the heresy of Homœopathy. If such should be the result of our admissions, we cannot help it; we have said only what we believe to be true, and if what we believe, is in reality the truth, the promulgation of it cannot lead to evil.—Truth is good! If the art of medicine, as we profess and practice it, cannot bear investigation, and shrinks before the light of truth, from whatsoever quarter it may come, it is high time that it should cease to be sanctioned and upheld by philosophers and honest men."

The same idea seems to have occurred to Dr. Forbes; for he says, on a subsequent page:

"But while we are thus exalting the powers of nature at the expense of Homœopathy, are we not, at the same time, laying bare the nakedness of our own cherished Allopathy? If it is nature that cures in Homœopathy, and if Homœopathy (as we have admitted) does thus cure, in certain cases, as well as Allopathy, do we not, by this admission, inevitably expose ourselves, defenceless, to the shock of the tremendous inference—that the treatment of many diseases on the ordinary plan must, at the very best, be useless; while it inflicts on our patients some serious evils, that Homœopathy is free from, such as swallowing of disagreeable and expensive drugs, and the frequently painful, and almost always unpleasant effects produced by them during their application?"

"It is often said," adds Dr. Henderson, "that



the benefits of Homœopathy flow mainly from the omission of medicine altogether, of which the system is supposed, by its opponents, in reality to consist. This opinion had better be reconsidered, if it lead to the practical inference, as I think it does, that some 80 or 90 per cent of the patients who employ medical practitioners, would be better off without them." (p. 237.)

Dr. Forbes proceeds :

"This (estimate) may or may not be accurate; we will believe it is exaggerated; but be this as it may, *we concede at once to him the TRUTH OF HIS GENERAL PROPOSITION; (!) and still adhere to ALLOPATHY.*" (!!)

Listen now to his reasons for his belief and unbelief:

"In doing so we consider that we are embracing a system extremely imperfect, &c., while in rejecting Homœopathy, we consider that we are discarding what is at once *false and bad—useless to the sufferer*, and degrading to the physician."

Heavens! what deductions from the premises laid down by the reviewer himself! He rejects Homœopathy, because it is "false and bad, useless to the sufferer," before the ink is well dry with which he records the success and triumphs of Homœopathy.

The reviewer next proceeds to the examination of Allopathy, which, sooth to say, meets with no very delicate manipulations at his hands, and concludes with a few suggestions, "things to be thought of, and things to be done," from which we make the following extracts :

"No. 6. To endeavor to substitute for the monstrous system of Polypharmacy, now universally prevalent, one that is at least, vastly more *simple*, more *intelligible*, more agreeable, and it may be hoped, one more *rational*, more scientific, more *certain*, and more *beneficial*."

"No. 8. To inculcate generally a *milder and less energetic* mode of practice, both in acute and chronic diseases: to encourage the *Expectant* preferably to the *Heroic* system, at least where the indications are not manifest."

"No. 9. To *discountenance all active and powerful medication* in the acute exanthemata and disease of specific type, as small pox, measles, scarlatina, typhus, &c., until we obtain some evidence that the cause of these diseases can be beneficially modified by remedies."

"No. 10. To discountenance, as much as possible, and eschew the habitual use, (without

any sufficient reason,) of *certain powerful remedies*, a practice now generally prevalent, and *fraught with the most baneful consequences*."

"This is one of the besetting sins of English practice, and originates partly in false theory, and partly in the desire to see manifest and strong effects resulting from the action of medicines. *Mercury, iodine, colchicum*, antimony, also *purgatives* in general, and *blood-letting* are *frightfully misused* in this manner."

"No. 12. To make every effort not merely to destroy the prevalent system of giving a vast quantity and variety of unnecessary and useless drugs, (to say the least of them,) but to encourage extreme simplicity in the prescription of medicines that seem to be requisite."

Well, here are admissions enough, Heaven knows, to satisfy the staunchest homœopath.—What, encourage milder and less energetic modes of practice? Eschew powerful medicines, and large doses? Take away mercury, blood-letting and purgatives? and what will you leave poor Allopathy? The *power* of its drugs and the *size* of its doses, we thought, were its grand distinctive characteristics. But hear Dr. Forbes once more :

"No. 13. To endeavor to break through the routine habit, universally prevalent, of prescribing certain determinate remedies for certain determinate diseases or symptoms of diseases, merely because the prescriber has been taught to do so, and on no better grounds than conventional tradition."

"No. 17. Also to teach students that *no systematic or theoretical classification* of disease, or of *therapeutic agents* ever yet promulgated, is *true* or *any thing like the truth* and that none can be adopted as a safe guide in practice."

"No. 15. To endeavor to introduce a more comprehensive and philosophical system of Nosology, at least in chronic diseases, whereby the practitioner may be led less to consider the *name* of a disease or some one symptom or some one local affection in a disease, than the disease itself—that is, the *whole* of the derangements existing in the body, and which it is his object to remove if possible."

Hahnemann's self could not have spoken more like Hahnemann. What? no classification of diseases? no classification of drugs? are we to have no more anti-spasmodics, no more diuretics, no more emmenagogues, no more diaphoretics? Even so, and Dr. Forbes brings us back to the *individual* character of disease and the *specific* application of drugs,



not, indeed, to the *names* of disease, but to the *totality* of the symptom in each individual case: this is true Homœopathy.

The reviewer, after having thus demolished Allopathy, endeavors, naturally enough, to knock away the supports of Homœopathy, and to refer every thing back to the curative powers of nature, with the significant hint that the "Reformation" of "Practical medicine" (Allopathy?) "is impending," and narrates an anecdote of "his highly respected and learned physician of Edinburgh, still living at an advanced age," as illustrative of this point. "On some one boasting before him of the marvellous cures wrought by the small doses of the Homœopathists, he said, "this was no peculiar cause for boasting, as he himself had, for the last two years, been curing his patients with even less, viz. with nothing at all!" The reviewer adds his conclusion, viz. "That the curative powers of nature suffice to explain all the triumphs of Homœopathy." Indeed! How, then, will the "highly respected and very learned physician of Edinburgh" and the host of Allopathic doctors answer at the bar of *God* for drenching their poor patients with poisonous drugs, for exhausting their life's blood, from their veins, for torturing them with blisters, cups, setons, issues, moxas, and the *actual cautery*, while their champion is obliged to acknowledge that the curative powers of nature (i. e. being left alone, or as Dr. Forbes would say, the Homœopathic treatment) would produce what even he is forced to own as a triumph?

We should like to give him a few general reflections on the whole subject, but find that we have already transgressed the bounds we had marked out for ourselves, and have, no doubt, tried our readers' patience. The views of Dr. Forbes acquire, additional force from the fact that he has, for a long time held a prominent position as a medical practitioner and has for many years stood in the foremost rank of British reviewers. The favorable testimony borne to Homœopathy, and the unfavorable to Allopathy, from such a source, must, if any thing can, arouse the sleeping Allopathists from their dream of security, and urge them to the investigation of a subject—ignorance of which, in Dr. Forbes's own words, is "mere ignorance."

The N. Y. Homœopathic Physician's Society has appointed a Local Bureau for the trial of drugs, Dr. Joslin Chairman.

*An Inquiry into the Homœopathic practice of medicine*, by WILLIAM HENDERSON, M. D., Professor of medicine and General Pathology, and lately one of the professors of Clinical Medicine, in the University of Edinburgh.

*Homœopathy Allopathy and Young Physic*, by JOHN FORBES, M. D. F. R. S.

*Letter to John Forbes*, M. D. F. R. S., Editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, by WILLIAM HENDERSON, M. D.

These three works have within a few days been published in one volume, octavo, pp. 279, by Wm. Radde, 322 Broadway, N. Y.

There is much valuable information to be found in this volume, and physicians of the old and new school would do well to read it. We do not wish it however, to be understood that we approve of every thing which Professor Henderson has said on Homœopathy. He has evidently mistaken Hahnemann on several points, but we prefer to speak of that which is true, and pass by as easily as we can the faults, leaving these to be looked after by Allopathic reviewers. Professor H. does, we think, convince every candid reader of his honesty in investigating homœopathy; this is prominent on every page of his book. And we may state, that before we received professor H.'s work, we had become not a little prejudiced against him, by what we read of him in several of the London journals. We really did think that where there was so much smoke, there should be some fire; that where there was such an universal fault-finding, there should be some good foundation for it. But these reviewers were blind guides, every one of them—they could not have seen the truth, or if they did, they were some how or other deprived of the power to speak it, or if they had this power, they did not use it. Professor H.'s work has had to encounter what all works do on homœopathy, which allopathic reviewers graciously condescend to notice, viz.: No attempt to meet the arguments; but they bluster, ridicule, misrepresent, comment upon the style—hint that the author's integrity is doubtful, &c. We therefore leave the faults of professor H.'s book to be pointed out by our opponents. We take leave to assign this branch of the business especially to the "London Lancet" and the "Medico Chirurgical Review."

Professor Henderson, from his own account, had been only about "a year and a half" investigating Homœopathy. The leading object in the publication of "An Inquiry into the practice of Homœopathy" was to remove



certain misconceptions in regard to this system by the profession at large; and we think he has furnished enough of facts and arguments to accomplish this object, provided he be read with candor. The following paragraph is as well adapted to this city and to this country, as it was no doubt to Edinburgh and to Europe:

"My attention was drawn more than that of others, to the subject by accidental circumstances, such as probably few have been placed in to the same extent; and, among these, the most influential in inducing me to undertake the practical study of it were, the testimony of Homœopathic physicians, whose integrity and judgment were worthy of confidence, and certain effects of the practice which had fallen under my notice. Some may have had inducements as considerable, to a like undertaking, presented to them, and yet have evaded their influence; and if I lay claim to any greater merit than they, it is that I have not thought so meanly of the capacity and honesty of others, and have paid less deference to the prejudices of those, however eminent they may be for such professional attainments as they have labored to acquire, whose opinions on subjects of which they are ignorant are not entitled to respect.

It may be thought that, in accusing of ignorance the more eminent of those who are opposed to the practice of Homœopathy, I do injustice to some, at least, who have perused the works in which the principles of the art are unfolded, and doctrinally enforced. But the ignorance to which I alluded is not of the averments and rules which have been published on the subject, but of their title to be received as truths. There is, indeed, an abounding ignorance of the former kind; so that, I believe, comparatively few of the ordinary practitioners of medicine are accurately acquainted with even the elements of the Homœopathic system. Yet, if the knowledge which is necessary, as Homœopathsists (I think justly) maintains, to qualify one for judging of the merits of their system, be a *practical* knowledge—supposing the *testimony* of Homœopathsists to be disregarded—it matters little, in so far as the authority of those who oppose it is concerned, whether their ignorance be of the literary or experimental kind."

The following may also be of use to our opponents, to which we ask their particular attention:

"When it is maintained as a sufficient refutation of the asserted facts of Homœopathy, that they cannot be true because opposed to experience, it is both forgotten that the Homœopathsists are the only practitioners who have any actual experience on the subject, and several negatives are assumed, with a facility unjustifiable in a controversy on one side of which there are so many professional men who maintain an affirmative opposition, as the unequivocal dictate of experiment."

We cannot forego to furnish our readers with one more extract, although somewhat long, yet it is worth a careful study, and especially at this time, when what has very lately been termed the "pathological school," has been trying to improve Homœopathy by killing it outright. We think professor Henderson places this matter in its true light in the following:

"While I repeat that experiment, and experiment only, can teach one to decide what amount of credit is due to the statements of Hahnemann and his followers, regarding the value of the practice of Homœopathy, and leave untouched a number of topics that have been uselessly dragged into the discussion of its claims, there is one objection, in addition to those already adverted to, which, from the spacious complacency with which it is urged, and from the misapprehensions which lend it the appearance of solidity, demands a few words of explanation. I allude to the pathological argument against Homœopathy—an argument a little difficult to deal with, briefly, only on account of the diversity of forms which it has been made to assume, in accordance with the various measures of intelligence possessed by those who make use of it. Thus, by some, very manifestly not much accustomed, or not very able, to ascribe precepts to their true foundation, the belief is entertained that the rules which are laid down in the ordinary practice of the present day, for the treatment of diseases, have sprung from a certain amount of acquaintance with the essential nature of the states of the body in disease; in other words, with the nature of those primary departures of the living substance—its powers and properties—from the platform of health, which constitute the proximate causes of morbid effects,—whether what are strictly called symptoms, or such as are witnessed in alterations of the textures or fluids—that become sensible as the characters of disease. No doubt, so precise and intimate a knowledge of disease as this, with a similar amount of information on the exact manner and degree in which medicines effect the vital properties of the organ at fault—which, by the way, is also supposed by some to be the case—would compose a very perfect and effectual foundation of practice; and it is no wonder that those who are simple enough to believe that any such knowledge exists, should regard with indignant contempt, a practical formula that aspires to supplant it. The opinion, however, is so utterly groundless, that I need do little else than ask those who entertain it, to consider whether they can point to a single instance in which a knowledge so profound of the mysteries of vitality has been acquired, either as to the nature, or the degree, of that alteration of the vital principle (if there be one,) or the innervation, irritability, organic sensibility, or by whatever other name that which confers the distinction between living and dead matter is known. While they make the attempt, I would caution



them against being misled by the metaphorical terms—originally, indeed, employed to express the conception of theorists respecting certain proximate causes, but now retained mainly for convenience—with which even practical works are apt to abound. Irritation, torpor, want of tone, and so forth, may answer well enough, perhaps as well as any other terms, to designate an unknown something, which must be represented in the detail of a process, or the unfolding of a method, when we desire to proceed in what is termed the rational way of practice; but it is a mere delusion to fancy that they are entitled to be considered as expressing any actual knowledge of what that something is. The very dissensions that prevail on all such speculations as pathology, are of themselves enough to shew, that nothing can be said to be actually known on that difficult part of the science; and I may add, that these same dissensions, prevailing as they do among those who employ the same means of treatment, not less than among those who are opposed in such matters, prove also of what little consequence to practice are the notions entertained respecting proximate causes. There may be some advantage in a conventional employment of terms, whatever may have been the notions which had originally suggested them, which serve to represent, and are understood to mean, certain phenomena or appearances, while there is no necessity implied of viewing the hypothesis involved in these terms as well founded, or worthy of being trusted as the foundation of practical principles.

"Such I conceive to be the actual relation in which the language of pathological speculation stands to the practice of medicine in these times. The principles of that practice are no more than precepts derived from the maximum of the happier effects of the treatment of those groups of phenomena, and sensible conditions, which are denominated diseases; and they certainly are not deduced from a *knowledge* of anything beyond these phenomena, or higher than that experience." \* \* \*

"Another form in which the pathological argument against Homœopathy is frequently advanced is, that, in prescribing, by the guidance of symptoms, regardless of the seat and nature of the disorder to be cured, the homœopathist is in danger of overlooking conditions of the most serious kind, and, consequently, that his remedies, even granting them to possess the powers he ascribes to them in removing the symptoms of a disease, leave behind, untouched or uncured, the evil from which these symptoms proceed. This objection is quite as visionary as the former, and admits of a full and satisfactory refutation. In the first place, it is not true that the homœopathist overlooks the nature and seat of any disease, in so far as the nature and seat of a disease are capable of being ascertained. In order to render this fact the clearer, it is necessary to define the sense in which the phrase, "nature of a disease," is used. If it be meant to indicate the intimate alteration of the "vital properties" of the part which is diseased, it is quite true that the homœopathic physician con-

siders it worthy of no consideration in the selection of his remedies; and in doing so, there is no essential difference between his procedure and that of other practical physicians of the present day, as I have already endeavored to show. But if it be employed in reference to such conditions as are conventionally known by the name of inflammation, of congestion, of spasm, of hypertrophy, and so forth; or to some morbid agent, capable of being chemically, or otherwise detected, present in the blood, or viscera, then he neither overlooks the nature of a disease, either external or internal, nor is he so unwise as to esteem it of little moment to his treatment. The "nature of a disease," in this sense, constitutes, in his estimation, a portion of that picture of sensible effects (imperfectly impressed by the term symptoms) which result usually from the secret, and, as he thinks, inscrutable, condition of the body, which is their proximate cause. When the phenomena and conditions which immediately distinguish them are plainly visible to his eyes, it will be readily admitted that he can hardly overlook their character; but it is supposed to be quite otherwise, and to him a matter of indifference, when a group of conditions, composing a malady of the same nature, exists in some internal organ, and, consequently, cannot be seen. This is altogether a misconception, which a very moderate acquaintance with the practice of Homœopathy would suffice to dispel.

"The study of morbid anatomy, and of diagnosis, in many instances, enables the physician to determine, without seeing them, the existence, in an internal organ, of an assemblage of conditions essentially the same as those which are often witnessed in external parts of the eye; and if the latter be of any consequence to him in guiding his practice, it would be absurd to suppose that the circumstance of these conditions existing in a part unseen, would deprive them of importance, or render the methods by which they can be ascertained to exist of no practical value. If redness, swelling and effusion, are additions to the pain and heat of erysipelas, highly important in prescribing, how can it be otherwise with the like conditions of the parts concerned in inflammation of the lungs, or of the bowels? There are indications by which those states of the viscera may be almost as accurately ascertained to exist as if they were seen by the eye; and of these the homœopathist is quite as cognisant as the ordinary physician, and holds them in certainly not less estimation. They occur occasionally among the number of those pathogenetic effects of medicinal substances on which his practice is, for the most part founded; and as they constitute the most important part of these effects, the ascertaining of their presence, by whatever means, is of the utmost consequence to the proper selection of his remedy. It may be that they are so situated that they cannot be known to exist—the more characteristic symptoms by which they are mediately discovered, in general, may be owing to some peculiarity, absent or undecided; and he is left to the guidance of the less



important phenomena of the disorder—such as are, in some measure, common to it and several others. In that event the seat, and, perhaps, the nature of the disorder, may be overlooked; but is this a risk, or a dilemma, peculiar to the practice of Homœopathy? No candid and intelligent practitioner of the common school can aver that it is; and being conversant, in some measure with both, I am satisfied that it is not so frequent a source of perplexity in the new practice as in the old. When the symptoms of an internal malady are so fully developed that they leave no doubt of the physical condition and phenomena present in the part affected, the homœopathist is under no greater necessity than another practitioner of restraining his mind from adverting to these conditions and phenomena, and is not prevented from improving his experience in practice by noting the effects of his remedies on them, as disclosed by the changes in the signs and symptoms by which these effects can be ascertained. When Hahnemann ridicules the endeavor to determine the nature of internal diseases, his reference is very plainly not to effects which are, under any circumstances, capable of being determined by the senses, but to those which can be subjects only of fruitless conjecture: and that his followers do not construe his doctrines in another sense, and see nothing in Homœopathy that lessens the importance of morbid anatomy, or of any of the appliances for the diagnosis of internal maladies, is sufficiently evident from the attention they have bestowed and are daily bestowing, on the study of the traces of disease left in the dead body by poisons, as additional means of discovering what tissues and organs are specially acted on by these poisons, and, in the sense already explained, what is the nature also of their action. A knowledge of this department of morbid anatomy would be useless to them in practice, if they were not, likewise, conversant with the various methods by which affections of different tissues and organs are distinguishable, and the nature and sensible characters, of those affections are determined. Morbid anatomy and diagnosis, therefore, in all their details, are avowedly regarded by intelligent homœopathists as of the utmost consequence to the improvement of their system of practice; and I may add, what has been very forcibly impressed on myself by the study of that system, that both are acquiring an importance, and value, in connection with it, which promise eventually to render them of much greater interest in practice than they have attained, or are ever likely to attain, as subsidiary to the ordinary treatment of diseases. Dealing, as the Homœopathist practically does, with remedies whose operation is specific, in the sense of acting directly and peculiarly on individual parts of the body, the minutest acquaintance with disease that can be acquired—with its anatomical changes and physiological phenomena—is necessary to the precision of his treatment. That treatment, in every case, is founded on the closest similarity that can be established between the pathogenetic effects of the substance he employs, and the conditions

and phenomena of the disease he purposes to remove, and it would be an obvious imperfection in his procedure if he omitted to take into consideration such circumstances, in either, as should enable him to make his adaptation as accurate as possible. In many instances he is left to select his remedies by the guidance of symptoms of which it may be difficult, or impossible, to say to what particular organ, or condition of its tissues, they are attributable. In such circumstances, it is usual with many ordinary practitioners, to form a hypothetical opinion of the seat and nature of the disorder, and to prescribe such remedies as are commonly held to produce effects which they deem necessary to the removal of the evil they suppose to exist. On many examples of this sort morbid anatomy has hitherto thrown no satisfactory light; and not a few of them are generally acknowledged to possess nothing that the anatomist, or chemist, can ever hope to discover. To this class belong the greater number of the adult,—pains and unusual sensations, that often embitter existence; many of the affections termed bilious and dyspeptic; and in short, what are known by the general name of functional disorders, in whatever part of the body they occur. The homœopathist does not think it necessary or right to conjecture, in the first instance what is the seat and nature of such affections. The accurate coaptation of pathogenetic with pathological *hypotheses* of any kind forms no part of his system, but only of pathogenetic with pathological *phenomena*. This is the rule of his *practice*; and if he take care to render due deference to it, he may thereafter form what hypothesis he pleases of the obscure disorder for which his services have been claimed, and even attempt to picture to himself the secret process by which his remedies elicit their effects."

We have no room for any further extracts or remarks. We will only say, that this volume is worthy of a perusal.

#### ATTENUATION OF DRUGS.

We make a few extracts from a letter of a highly intelligent and respected physician in western New-York.

"The high preparations of certain remedies that you sent me came duly to hand, and I have now several patients, (chronic cases) under their influence. If I find no effects from them, as I think the remedies well indicated, I shall resort to the lower, and decide, whether in these particular cases the higher or lower preparations succeed best.

It seems to me a great pity that instead of the amount of talk expended that has not at all decided this mooted question, that some statistics have not been entered into to decide it, in the manner perhaps I have proposed to myself; i. e. in chronic cases to try first the high preparations, which, if successful, will



go so far to prove their efficacy; if a failure is made with a properly selected drug, to resort then to lower ones, which, if successful, must be set down to the other side of the account.—Such results by different practitioners might then be published, forming an aggregate of facts on which only can we rely for the decision of the question.”

You ask can I “give any reason why high dilutions should not act? Not at all, nor do I wish to. My only search is after truth; such being the case, it behooves me well to search, and sift, and doubt, before receiving into my faith any new propositions. “Doubt” it has been well said (accompanied of course, by ‘agitation of thought’) ‘is the parent of truth.’”

“In chronic cases I have not unfrequently found trouble in this wise—on commencing my treatment with preparations of the 4th to 6th Potency (the only ones that I have heretofore used in such cases) though I may find marked relief produced in the beginning, yet the disease returns, and though it rarely gets back as far as its original severity, yet it is not nearly as much mitigated as it has been in course of treatment.”

We may say that it would be impossible to settle definitely the precise potency that should be used in the treatment of either acute or chronic cases, for although as a general thing, the lower potencies are used in acute cases, yet the higher have been used with equal success in similar cases; and although the higher are generally used in chronic cases, yet the lower are often used with complete success.

Every thing depends upon the correctness of the indication, and the judgement of the Physician. He ought to make such an estimate of the whole case, and so judge of the action of the remedy he wishes to employ as to be able to decide with propriety the potency in each particular case.

When in cases of local inflammations, or a concentration of the vital action upon a certain organ the remedy indicated has a direct action upon such organ and its greatest tendency is to produce a similar local affection, or condition; or even when the general state strongly marks the remedy to be employed, it would seem to us injudicious, if not hazardous, to crowd the system with either large or repeated doses.

In an inflammatory congested, or highly irritated state of the brain, with the susceptibilities of the system highly roused, there

would be neither propriety, safety or utility in giving Belladonna low or often repeated.

“The appropriation of a medicine to any given case of disease does not depend solely upon the circumstance of its being perfectly homœopathic, but also upon the minute quantity of the dose in which it is administered. If *too strong* a dose of a remedy, that is even entirely homœopathic, be given, it will infallibly injure the patient, though the medical substance be of ever so salutary a nature; the impression it makes is felt more sensibly, because, in virtue of its homœopathic character, the remedy acts precisely on those parts of the organism which have already been most exposed to the attacks of the natural disease.”

An attempt to settle the matter by statistics would result in showing that similar conditions are cured by both high and low attenuations; while failure in the use of either might so embarrass a case that a resort to a higher or lower potency would not effect a cure, when it might be, that had the right potency been selected in the first instance, a cure would have been effected. And again, a change from either a low to a high, or a high to a low potency will often effect a cure.

The physician who is in the habit of using the various attenuations, would, of course, be better able to judge of the selection in any given case; but he who confines himself to the low cannot know anything of the action of the high.

The use of remedies in every variety of attenuation even to the highest, is the true way for a Homœopathist to understand the philosophy of their action, and to perfect his practice.

Why do practitioners confine themselves to 3d and 6th attenuations, and argue that they *must doubt* the effect of the 30th, and be cautious how they admit into their faith any new propositions? Did not Hahnemann himself teach the doctrine of attenuations, and did he fix their limits at the 3d or 6th?

“The question that now suggests itself is, to discover what may be the degree of minuteness of the dose best calculated to render the salutary effects intended to be produced certain and gentle—that is to say, how far the dose of a homœopathic remedy in any given case of disease, ought to be reduced, in order to derive from it the best possible cure. It may be readily conceived that no theoretical conjecture will furnish an answer to this problem, and that it is not by such means we can establish, in respect to each individual medicine, the quantity of the dose that suffices to produce the homœopathic effect, and accomplish a prompt and gentle cure. No reasonings, however ingenious, will avail in this instance. It is by



pure experiments only, and precise observations, that this object can be attained. It would be absurd to bring forward as an objection the large doses used in ordinary medicine, which are not applied to the suffering parts themselves, but merely to those not attacked by the disease. This would be no argument against the minuteness of the doses which pure experiments have proved to be necessary in homœopathic treatment."

"It is of little import whether the attenuation goes so far as to appear almost impossible to ordinary physicians whose minds feed on no other ideas but what are gross and material.—All their arguments and vain assertions will be of little avail when opposed to the dictates of unerring experience."

We are at a loss to understand why it is that practitioners of Homœopathy *doubt* the efficacy of the higher attenuations and still more at a loss to know why they should suffer their *doubts* to prevent the use of them.

They have the testimony of Hahnemann not only as to their action, but their indispensable utility; and added to this is the testimony of every physician who has employed them in the manner directed by him.

There is nothing in the bare assertion of the fact that the 3d or 6th attenuation will produce effects upon the system that is calculated to command belief. It is only by their use that this is induced, and no man could in any other way so have judged of the susceptibilities of the vital power, and so have comprehended and appreciated the slight causes that may disturb its action, *a priori*, to arrive at such belief; and how is it possible for one who is daily in the habit of seeing the action of the 6th attenuation to decide that the remedy can be used with effect no higher, or decide without trial, how high it may be attenuated, and still produce effects. And furthermore, we have yet to learn that a drug of the 30 attenuation is too much weakened to sustain a proper relation in its nature and spirituality to the vital power; or that it is weaker (more attenuated) than any of the infectious miasms which produce so terrible effects in the system. And finally so far as our experience and observation goes, those physicians who are most successful in the treatment of diseases, especially those of a chronic character, employ the attenuated drugs.

The proceedings of the session for 1846 of the American Institute of Homœopathy, are published.

## THE SPIRIT OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC DOCTRINE.

BY SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

Translated by Geddes M. Scott, M. D., of Glasgow, Scotland.

"From seeing evil still educing good."

Continued.

Human life in no respect obeys laws purely physical, which are of force only with organic substances. The material substance of which the human organism is composed, no longer follow, in this living combination, the laws to which matter is subject in the state of non-life, and they acknowledge only the laws proper to vitality; they are then animated and living, as the whole is animated and living. In the organism reigns a fundamental power, undefinable, yet every where dominant, which destroys every tendency in the constituent parts of the body to conform themselves to the laws of pressure, of concussion, of the *vis inertiae*, of fermentation, of putrefaction, &c., and which subjects them exclusively to the wonderful laws of life, that is to say, maintain them in a state of sensibility and activity, necessary to the conservation of the living whole—in a dynamic, almost spiritual state.

The state of the organism, then, depending solely on that of the life which animates it, it follows that the change to which we give the name of disease is, in like manner, no chemical, physical, or mechanical effect, but the result of modifications in the manner in which man feels and acts, essentially depending on vitality, (*maniere vivante*), that is to say, a dynamic change, a sort of new existence, the consequence of which must be to introduce a change in the properties of the material constituent principles of the body.

The influence of morbid causes, (the greater part of which act from without,) to engender in us different diseases, is almost always so invisible and immaterial,\* that it can neither immediately alter the form and the substance of the constituent parts of our body, nor pour into our veins any acrid and hurtful liquid capable of modifying and corrupting chemically the mass of our humors—an untenable hypothesis, unsupported by facts,—the

\*We must except some surgical diseases, and evils occasioned by foreign indigestible bodies, which are sometimes introduced into the alimentary canal.



imagination of minds filled with mechanical ideas. It is by their innate powers (vitalité) that exciting causes of diseases act upon the state of our life in a manner purely dynamic, in some sort, spiritual. They begin by disordering the organs of the vital energy, and the modified existence which is the result—the dynamic change which ensues,—induces a change in the manner of feeling (uneasiness, pains,) and in the manner of acting (anomaly of the functions) of each organ in particular, and of the entire of the organs, which must necessarily also induce a change in the fluids with which the vessels are filled, and produce morbid secretions. This is the inevitable result of the new character that life has assumed—a character different from that which it has in a healthier state.

These unusual or anormal substances, then, which manifest themselves in diseases, are only the products of the disease itself—they must necessarily be secreted as long as the disease maintains its true character, and thus they form part of its symptoms. These are simply effects, and consequently manifestations of the anomaly which exists in the interior, and though they are often contagious with respect to other persons who are in health, they exert on the diseased body which has produced them, no action capable of engendering or maintaining the disease, that is to say, they do not re-act as material morbid causes, any more than a man can affect other parts of his own body with the liquid which oozes from his chancre, or from his urethra when affected with gonorrhœa, or than a viper can inflict a mortal or dangerous wound upon itself with its own venom.

Hence it is evident that the diseases of man, engendered by the dynamic and specific (virtuelle) influence of morbid causes, are *originally* only dynamic and (so to speak) spiritual modifications of the vital character of our organism.

*We easily see that these dynamic alterations of the vital character of our organism, to which we give the name of diseases, being nothing else than changes in the manner of feeling and acting, they can be indicated only by a certain amount of symptoms, and can in no other way come to knowledge.*

Since, in an act so important to human life as the cure of a disease, we may admit no other object of cure than a state of the diseased body distinctly cognizable by the faculties with which we are endowed, (for we may adopt no

other guide, since to call to our aid mere conjectures and hypotheses destitute of proof would be madness, or even a crime against human nature,) it follows from this, that diseases, dynamic modifications of the vital character, indicate their existence only by modifications in the manner in which our organism feels and acts, that is to say, only by an aggregation of appreciable symptoms. *These only can be the objects of cure in each case of disease. In fact, if all the symptoms be removed, there remains nothing but a state of health.*

To be continued.

### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

The long established and crude notions of disease hitherto believed and promulgated by the profession, are being dispelled and displaced by more enlightened, rational and philosophical views, based upon more accurate knowledge of the physiology and vitality of the human system, and the specific and dynamized action of drugs and certain *miasma* thereupon. The doctrine of the Humoral Pathology originally taught by Hippocrates and handed down to the present day through successive generations, and which gave rise to the absurd system of practice which employs bloodletting, blistering, issues, emetics, cathartics, &c. in order to purge or drain the humors from the system is already exploded; and disease is now considered to be essentially a disturbance of the natural and healthy action of the vital forces.

“In the healthy condition of man, the immaterial vital principle which animates the material body exercises an absolute sway and maintains all its parts in the most admirable order and harmony both of sensation and action so that our indwelling rational spirit may freely employ these living healthy organs for the superior purposes of our existence.”

“The material organism deprived of its vital principle, is incapable of sensation action, or self preservation. (It is then dead and subjected to the physical laws of the external world, it suffers decay and is again resolved unto its constitutional elements,) it is the immaterial vital principle only animating the former in its healthy and morbid condition, that imparts to it all sensation and enables it to perform its functions.”

As the natural action, and equal distribution of the vital principle, can only exist in a condition of health; no more can a state of disease exist save in the disturbed and deranged action of the vital forces. And the causes of such disturbance gives rise to those morbid actions and internal and external signs which



constitute disease and determine its peculiarities.

These causes may be occasional or permanent. The occasional may originate from a neglect or abuse of the conditions of health; from the influence of specific miasms, as those of small pox, intermittents, &c. and the misuse of drugs; which may also produce permanent disease. The permanent are those having their origin in known or unknown specific miasms which having once invaded the system produce thereupon characteristic and permanent effects, and which of their own accord never leave it; they remain latent and give rise to the various affections which are known as chronic, and which may be transmitted through successive generations and which in order to become eradicated must have opposed to them the specific action of drugs known to produce similar affections.

Of these we shall speak hereafter.

The occasional causes originating in neglect or abuse of the natural conditions of health, may be removed by proper attention to these conditions, unless it has been carried so far as to produce morbid changes in any organ or system of organs; in which case medical treatment may be essential to a return to health.

Small pox, scarlatina, measles, &c. originate in specific contagious miasms of a dynamic and inappreciable character. We have no means of detecting their presence, and the severe affections they occasion in the system must be owing to the peculiar influence they impress upon the vital power. And so of intermitting and other fevers affecting many persons at certain seasons and in peculiar localities, all of which are easily palliated and cured by remedies known to produce similar affections, and administered in doses as much attenuated, at least as the miasm is which causes the disease. Should the remedies be given in larger doses or in less attenuated degrees than the morbid influence, the consequent difficulties might be increased, the sufferings aggravated, and the cure protracted.—Hence the importance as well as the philosophy of small, attenuated doses of medicine.—The remedy should correspond in this respect to the disturbing cause. No one could prescribe large doses of drugs in these diseases without overlooking and disregarding the fact that the causes productive of them are immaterial, inappreciable, and dynamic in character; as well as the nice susceptibilities of the system, immensely heightened by disease.

Diseases are vastly more often produced by drugs than people generally, or even physicians are aware of. Drugs taken as palliatives may and do in innumerable cases produce specific and dangerous disturbance of the vital action, especially, in constitutions, in which there already exists a latent chronic miasm which they always aggravate and often determine with fatal speed and activity upon some vital organ; and may even so aggravate slight derangements as to render a case serious and alarming which originally and in itself was slight; and if left to itself would have readily yielded to the power of nature.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. I.

New-York, Saturday, June 20, 1846.

NO. 5.

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DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

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**J. H. Tobitt, Printer,**

*No. 9 Spruce-street, New-York.*

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This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 592 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway; and at Van Beuren's, 223 Bleeker street.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 Broadway.

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## ADDRESS

BEFORE THE NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC  
PHYSICIAN'S SOCIETY,

*Dec. 3d, 1845, by B. F. Joslin, M. D., President.*

GENTLEMEN:—Whilst I highly prize the unexpected honor which your vote has conferred it is with diffidence that I undertake to discharge the duties it has imposed. I rely, however, upon your kind co-operation for the preservation of order, and upon your indulgence in regard to unintentional errors to which I may be liable in matters of form.

Gentlemen, I congratulate you and myself, that the composition and objects of this Society—and I may almost say the essential character of a genuine Homœopathic physician, are such as to promote a spontaneous tendency towards order, harmony and friendship. Even without the evidence of actual observation, I should consider it highly probable, that regularly and thoroughly educated physicians, embracing Homœopathy and associating for its advancement, would in general, in the present early stage of the reformation, resemble each other in many important particulars—would be men possessed of sound minds, and actuated by pure and lofty motives, men who prefer facts to hypotheses, and the interests of truth and humanity to their own temporary advancement. Though the Homœopathic physician, before he can be admitted into this Society, is required to possess as thorough knowledge of every branch of medical science as the most respectable portion of his Allopathic brethren, and although every member of this Society has actually gone through a regular course of Allopathic study, under Allopathic professors, and has been by Allopathic boards of examiners, declared duly qualified to practice medicine, he is now proscribed for the knowledge which he has superadded. However highly the Homœopathic physician may be respected for his probity, his learning, and the general strength and soundness of his intellect, yet as a Homœopathist he is regarded by the mass of the community as a kind of monomaniac, and is viewed with suspicion and jealousy, if not contempt, by a majority of those to whom the public look up as the leaders of medical fashion, and the expounders of medical doctrine. Under such circumstances, it is not to be expected that the ranks of Homœopathy are to be filled from among the timid, the ambitious, the avaricious, the devotees to medical fashion or the aspirants to medical honor.



The converts to the new doctrine are not to be sought among undergraduates still dependent on the patronage of professors, nor among newly-fledged licentiates still fortified against new truth by undue reverence for the dogmas of the school, and inexperienced in their practical fallacy at the bed-side of the patient. This must be the general rule. If any have been exceptions, they are worthy of peculiar honor, as men whose intellectual powers and moral qualities have been such as to elevate them above the unfavorable influences by which they were surrounded.

There is another class with whose countenance and presence our fraternity can rarely hope to be honored. They are those who have arrived at that age which thinks and acts from habit, and recoils from a new and laborious investigation, and a total revolution of their theories and practice. Upon the more aged specimens of this class I look with mingled feelings of respect, sympathy and regret. They have sincerely aimed to do their duty and promote the welfare of man under the best lights formerly accessible. That they were born a few years too early for this glorious and beneficent reformation, is their misfortune, not their fault. It is now too late even for their friends and the friends of truth to desire their conversion, which might involve personal sacrifices transcending the amount of public good achieved by their future labors. Such individuals, however, are not numerous in our laborious and self-sacrificing profession, in which an unavoidable neglect of regimen, occasioned by imperative and unreasonable calls, induces disease, and cuts off a great majority of our fellow laborers in the midst of their useful career.

There is another class of unbelievers which, from the nature of the case, must embrace some of the foregoing class. It consists of those who are regarded as eminent in the medical profession. They are rich in honors and emoluments. Their circumstances naturally give them a strong bias against innovation. They apprehend that a medical revolution would check their brilliant career, and from their towering elevation, suddenly degrade them to the level of second-rate practitioners. Some among them may not only have attained wealth and popularity by practice, but honorable and influential posts as teachers of medicine, and, what is still more unfavorable to conversion, should their love of truth be less active than their self-esteem and love of approbation—some of them

may "have written a book," and stereotyped their opinions. To this whole class, their admiring pupils direct our attention and exultingly enquire, "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?" Have the leading and most learned men of the profession been converted by Hahnemann? Then turning to his followers, they exclaim with contempt, "But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed."

One object in alluding to these circumstances has been to show, that one of their natural tendencies would be to promote homogeneity and fellowship in our association. The tendency, in the present stage of the reformation, is to the union of materials considerably analogous in their nature and habitudes. This is an agreeable feature, and relieves me from much that might, in a corresponding position, be disagreeable and embarrassing in a society composed of materials as heterogeneous and discordant as some which were constituted by the laws of the State of New York, and in which all classes of licensed practitioners—ourselves included—were promiscuously and compulsorily assembled.

I have illustrated somewhat negatively the character of Homœopathic believers, so far as it depends on a few external circumstances unfavorable to the reception of the new truth. Conversion requires either the absence of these circumstances, or else an intellectual and moral character capable of resisting their influence.

There are other influences arising from the inherent nature of the doctrine and of the evidence adduced in its support. These favor or oppose its reception according to the mental character, and the previous training in observation and induction.

I shall allude only to the inductive character of Homœopathy, and its analogy in this respect to the physical sciences as now cultivated, and to Christianity as first promulgated. Since the time of Bacon, the inductive method, which founds science on facts instead of assumptions, has won the respect of the scientific world, and been adopted as the paramount guide in physical investigations. Since philosophers have agreed to exercise first the perceptive and then the reasoning powers,—first to collect facts, then and thence to frame theories—there has been a harmony in their co-operation, and a fruitful harvest resulting from their labors, both comparatively unknown to the persons



and times of the sophists and schoolmen, engaged in rearing spacious structures on the basis of imagined data.

In regard to method of cultivation and certainty of conclusions, the new system of medicine approaches the most exact of these sciences which relate to inorganic nature. A class of facts obtained from healthy persons expresses the morbid properties of each article of our *Materia Medica*; another class of facts obtained from the sick expresses the therapeutic properties of the same agents; a comparison of the two classes establishes as a universal law, "Like are cured by like," "*similia similibus curantur*." Again, the facts of each individual case of disease determine the remedy to be selected in accordance with this law.

Let not the student of inorganic nature presume that our alleged facts are shadowy and unreal, because they frequently relate to what is immaterial—to mere sensations. There is nothing of which our knowledge is more direct and certain, than our knowledge of our own sensations. There is no such thing as an imaginary pain, or any imaginary sensation in the strict and elementary sense of the word. If a man believes that he has a certain pain, he has it; if he believes himself bilious, it may be a mistake. The reality of the sensation he knows; the hypothesis respecting his pathological condition he merely believes. The Homœopathic physician generally asks for no clinical facts but those to which the patient could testify in a court of justice. If a man commences the statement of his present condition with "I believe," you are almost sure that he is about to state an hypothesis, not a fact.

Of all the physical sciences, that of therapeutics has been slowest in adopting the inductive method. Hahnemann was the first who made well-ascertained facts the essential basis of the whole therapeutic fabric; the first indeed to discover a law which renders all the phenomena of abnormal action available in practice. His is the only known law which makes every morbid phenomenon observable in the living body subservient to the restoration of health. It is this availableness of the facts which stimulates the true physician to examine so minutely the active and living physiognomy of disease, the symptoms.

The medical profession is divided into two parties which have not joined issue on the main point. One party asserts, as the result of observation and experience, that the Homœopa-

thic agents are efficient. Does the other assert that they are not? No such thing. It merely asserts that they *ought* not to be efficient. The one reasons from observed facts, the other from the supposed nature of things. Here is no issue. What must be the opinion of an impartial jury, when all the witnesses on one side testify that the remedies are efficient, whilst all on the other side testify that they have not tested their efficacy?

The obstacles to belief which I formerly enumerated, operate on certain classes. But it is not selfishness, nor habit, nor blind and obstinate prejudice in its grosser form, which chiefly prevents the general adoption of the new method. In view of the seeming *a priori* improbabilities of Homœopathy, and their own want of the knowledge requisite to make any safe and satisfactory trials of the system on the sick—a circumstance which vitiates the testimony of those few who profess to have tried the system without success—the majority of physicians either resolve to reject it forever, or else procrastinate its trial from year to year, for want of leisure to attain the preliminary knowledge requisite for its practical examination. In the mean time, they have more confidence in their own reason than in other people's observations, on a subject in relation to which there appears to be so many sources of illusion.

Most of these difficulties might be obviated by a method of experimentation, different from that ordinarily pursued. I am confident that, should every physician make suitable trial of the Homœopathic attenuations on himself when in his usual health, the rapid and general conversion of the profession would be inevitable. Let him carefully observe and minutely record the new symptoms experienced after each dose, and then after some days have elapsed, compare this list with the symptoms of the same remedy as recorded in the *Materia Medica*, or in the first volume of *Jahr's Manual*, and he will probably observe such a coincidence as will induce him to pursue the investigation. If he makes a similar examination of the same minute doses of other Homœopathic remedies after suitable intervals, he will, after the trials of a few remedies, find the correspondence between his own and the printed records so striking, as to convince him of the truth of the latter. The effects will be more striking in proportion to the adaptation of the medicine to the particular susceptibilities of



the individual. Hence some previous study or the advice of a scientific Homœopathist, will be useful in making the selection.

Experiments made in the above manner, prove not only the truth of our *Materia Medica*, but the power of the small doses and attenuations, that most obnoxious portion of the Homœopathic creed. This doctrine, like other parts of Homœopathy, is simply a matter of induction. It may, as I have illustrated, be proved by our own sensations. Hahnemann was led to it by pure experience, and not by any speculative views. The disciples of Hahnemann have been anathematized for their confidence in facts.

Similar treatment had been long since experienced by the disciples of One whom we may reverently call a physician, inasmuch as the record of his cures forms no inconsiderable portion of his history. Whilst one of his objects was the restoration of health—man's highest physical interest—another was to generate belief in truth, by no means of facts cognizable by the senses.

Christianity was presented to the world in the shape of facts. It was a grand exhibition of the inductive method of philosophy. Now we may also claim for Homœopathy an inductive character, and for its believers a rational regard for the evidence of their senses.

Gentlemen, in making this comparison, I apprehend from you no unfair criticism. The comparison has no reference to the relative importance of the two subjects, and makes no irreverent use of sacred things. When Archbishop Whateley, in order to confound the sceptics of his day, institutes a tacit but elaborate comparison between the life of Napoleon and that of Christ, and between the disbelievers of the two biographies, or when the great Teacher himself compares the kingdom of heaven to "leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal," no intelligent and candid reader considers the more sacred subject degraded, or suspects any design to compare the two in regard to their importance, dignity or sanctity. A miraculous cure requires supernatural agency, and in this respect is unlike all others. But the spectator of this phenomenon, in order that he may be convinced of its reality, requires only the honest exercise of his perceptive and reflective powers. In this respect, a miracle agrees with every other phenomenon; it is addressed to man's natural powers. The case of second-hand evidence is similar. If any phenomenon is recorded by

persons who observed, or any sensation by persons who experienced it, I may endeavor to weigh the characters and circumstances of the witnesses, and may admit or reject their testimony according to the evidence thus obtained. If the phenomenon is strange and wonderful, if it is even miraculous, I still use my natural powers in examining the testimony.

In pursuing the inductive method, by which the physical sciences are built up, the philosopher no longer inquires what the facts should be, but what they are. He collects them by his own observations and experiments, or obtains them from competent and credible observers, and employs facts as the only proper basis of his generalizations. If any facts, however new and strange, be reported by credible witnesses, he endeavors to place himself in a situation to observe them. If this be impracticable, he will not array his preconceived opinions against unexceptionable testimony.

Such has been the course pursued by the disciples of Bacon, and also by the disciples of a still greater Master. These appealed to facts as the basis of belief, and warned their brethren against the prevalent "philosophy," which was far from being inductive. The Greeks sought "after wisdom," after plausible hypotheses, and therefore rejected the facts, and the true wisdom. The sophists, the self-styled philosophers, held the same position as those medical sceptics of our day who array a priori argument, barely plausible, against facts well attested. A flippant speaker or writer may make the Homœopathic doctrine appear ridiculous to minds as superficial as his own; a thorough examination, by men really scientific and profound, will demonstrate its consistency with true reason. This greatest of all medical truths shrinks not from the ordeal of speculative investigation; yet this was not its origin in the mind of its immortal discoverer, nor has this been the principal instrument in its propagation. It appeals to the test of experiment—to results susceptible of verification by every physician and philosopher, who is anxious to arrive at a correct estimate of a discovery, the most important ever made in the whole range of the medical and physical sciences.

#### "HOMŒOPATHY EXAMINED."

"The New York Medical and Surgical Reporter," has an article entitled "Homœopathy Examined," which is so strikingly characteris-



tic of its author, that we were about to pass it by in silence, lest undue popularity might be given to the article and to its author. An advertisement has appeared about it, in at least two daily papers; a rather unusual thing in such a case. In fact, such a mode of advertising for business is an improvement, for which the gentleman in question, should receive full credit, and no doubt he will receive it at the hands of every honorable physician, even of his own school. The article is noticed by us mainly to show how utterly groundless are the charges which the author makes against Homœopathy. If any member of the profession, however prejudiced, can receive the article under consideration as an examination of Homœopathy, or of any thing else; he can do what we could not have done, while our own prejudices were as strong against Homœopathy as the most violent opposer of it. The author after naming that law of cure, "*similia similibus curantur*," sneeringly says:—

"Now it is on this principle that the immortal Hahnemann forbids to bleed in pneumonia and pleurisy. He first decides that venesection is one of the *contraria* to inflammation, and, ergo, it can never cure. This he asserts again and again, so that a reader not accustomed to the practice of medicine, would suppose the fact past contradiction, that venesection cannot cure pleurisy. And yet, so great is the discrepancy between his assertion and the fact, that a philosophical practitioner is ashamed to assume the tone of contradiction to this astounding dogma of Hahnemann. To notice it seems to lend it dignity. He considers it the height of audacity in any one to dare so bold a falsehood. It has rarely been said that if blood-letting is not the true remedy for inflammatory diseases, then is nothing known in science whatever. It is, perhaps, the most unquestionable of all medical principles or facts. The truth is, that the assertion, like others of the same origin, are not intended for the profession but for the public, who cannot judge in the case. If the public could see the results of Homœopathic practice in these cases, manifested in adhesions uniting the lungs to the ribs, or obliterating altogether the pleural cavity, producing indurations of the substance of these organs, and, in some cases which I myself have seen, rupturing the air-cells and inducing consequent emphysema to such an extent that death followed as the unavoidable consequence: if the public could themselves be the observers of these outrages against truth, humanity and real science, they would without hesitation, repudiate such practitioners, at least in *all diseases of the lungs*. But, unfortunately the public, although they judge without self-distrust, and are in fact the final judges of all medical men, never see pathological developments; and if they did, could not appreciate them correctly. Hence it is hard to make these dead witnesses speak

to the comprehension of our final judges, the intelligent Public."

This is beyond doubt an intentional perversion of the truth, for Hahnemann has said no such thing, as we will now show. He says:

"Though the living human body may, perhaps, never have contained one drop of blood too much, still the old school regard a supposed plethora, or superabundance of blood, as the principal material cause of hemorrhages and inflammations, and which ought to be attacked by bleeding and leeches. This they call a treatment of the cause, and a rational mode of proceeding. In fevers with an inflammatory character, as well as in acute pleurisy, they even go so far as to regard the coagulable lymph that exists in the blood, (and which they call the buffy coat,) as the peccant matter, which they do their best to evacuate, as much as possible, by repeated bleedings, although it often occurs that this crust becomes thicker and tougher in appearance, at every fresh emission of blood. In this manner, when inflammatory fever cannot be subdued, they often bleed the patient till he is near death, in order to remove this buffy coat, or the pretended plethora, without ever suspecting that the inflamed blood is nothing more than the product of the acute fever, the inflammatory immaterial (dynamic) irritation; and that this latter, the sole cause of the disturbance that has taken place in the vascular system, may be arrested by a homœopathic remedy, such, for example, as a globule of sugar impregnated with the juice of aconite of the decillionth degree of dilution, avoiding the vegetable acids; so that the *most violent pleuritic fever*, with all its attendant alarming symptoms, is cured in the *space of twenty-four hours at farthest, without loss of blood, or any antiphlogistic whatever*, (if a little blood, by way of experiment be now taken from the vein, it will no longer exhibit any traces of inflammatory crust,) whereas, another patient, similar in every respect, and treated according to the pretended rational mode of the old school, if he escape death after numerous bleedings and unspeakable suffering, often languishes yet entire months, reduced and exhausted, before he can stand upright, if he is not taken off in the interval (as is frequently the case) by a typhus fever, a leucophlegmacy, or a pulmonary consumption, the common result of this mode of treatment.

He who feels the steady pulse of a patient an hour before the shivering comes on, which always precedes acute pleurisy, will be much



surprised when two hours after, (the fever having set in,) they try to persuade him that the violent plethora which then exists, makes repeated bleeding necessary; and he asks himself by what miracle could those pounds of blood, which are now to be taken away, and which he had two hours before, felt beating with a tranquil movement, have effected an entrance into the arteries of the patient? There could not be an ounce of blood more in his veins than he possessed two hours before, when he was in good health. Thus, when the Allopathic physician prescribes venesection, it is not at all superfluous blood that he draws from the patient attacked with acute fever, because this liquid could not possibly exist in too great quantity: but he deprives him of a portion of the normal blood necessary to his existence, and to the re-establishment of health; a grievous loss, which it is no longer in his power to repair, and he thinks, notwithstanding, to have acted according to the axiom *tolle causam*, to which he gives so wrong an interpretation, whilst the sole and true cause of the malady was, not a superabundance of blood, which could never exist, but a dynamic inflammatory irritation of the vascular system, as is proved by the permanent and speedy cure which may be effected in similar cases, by administering one or two incredibly minute doses of the juice of aconite, which is homœopathic with this irritation. The old school err not less, in recommending partial bleeding, and still more so, in the application of leeches in great numbers, when treating local inflammation, after the manner of Broussais. The palliative relief which they afford at first, is not crowned by a rapid or perfect cure; the weakness and valetudinarian state to which the parts that have been thus treated, remain a prey, and sometimes even the whole body, sufficiently prove how erroneous it is to attribute local inflammation to local plethora; and how deceitful are the consequences of such bleedings, when this inflammatory irritation, apparently local, can be destroyed in a prompt and permanent manner, by a small dose of aconite, or, according to circumstances, of belladonna, a mode by which the malady is speedily and effectively cured, without having recourse to bleedings, which nothing can justify."

We will avail ourselves of this place to say, that we have absolutely cured two cases of "pleuritic fever" with the 30th attenuation of aconite—one in less than 24 hours; and another in less than 36 hours; "without loss of

blood or any antiphlogistic whatever." And we are mortified to confess, that although it is now a number of years since we became convinced that Homœopathy was true; yet such was the influence of education upon us, that we would scarcely believe that an acute pleurisy could be cured as Hahnemann had stated. Hence, although we have not bled in this disease or in *pneumonia* for years, we never did effect a cure of these diseases by the same drugs in low dilutions frequently repeated, in a less time than from one to three weeks, until we adopted Hahnemann's practice as above. These are facts of our own experience, which the enemies of Homœopathy may receive or reject as they please. We would, however, advise;—go and do likewise, and publish the result: but be honest in the treatment and also in the report.

This, then, is what Hahnemann has said; and in view of it the author of "Homœopathy Examined" ought to blush for the base imposition he has attempted to practice on the public. A kindred attempt is also made in the *flourish* about morbid appearances after death, which we assure the reader is imperfectly copied from some work on morbid anatomy. These terrible effects the author says he has seen as results of the Homœopathic practice. When did he see a case? where did he see it? Let us have the cases, and the facts connected with them. The author should have been a little more cautious, but he was not writing for the profession, but for the public, which he says, "cannot judge in the case," therefore he talks of "adhesions uniting the lungs to the ribs." This is something new in pathology. One of the editors of this Journal spent a large portion of eleven years in private and public rooms for dissections, and saw hundreds of adhesions of the pleura pulmonalis and pleura costalis, but never saw "adhesions uniting the lungs to the ribs," nor did any one else. We will not say much about the word "uniting" as here used. The author being learned and "sound" he must be authority for a union of two such words as "adhesions uniting"—but enough of this.

Another branch of "Homœopathy Examined" is if possible, yet more unfortunate. The author introduces the "City Inspector's Report" as evidence against Homœopathy. This report records 10,851 deaths in this city in 1845, being an increase over past years of 2038. He cunningly makes reference to "consumption," so as to fix in the mind of the reader that as this



disease has to do with the lungs, and the greatest number of deaths is caused by it; therefore the Homœopathic practice has much more to do with this terrible result than the public are aware of. Let us sift this to the bottom, and present the truth. There are in this city, 800 physicians of all sorts; of this number there are about 35 who pretend to practice Homœopathically, and a few of those are scarcely initiated, and they pursue a mixed practice and advocate blood letting in inflammations; but take the "sound" Hahnemannians in this city, and the number will be diminished. The author says, "one death to a hundred among *sick* people, is about the mortality of last year in the practice of sound physicians." Now as those who practice Homœopathically cannot be "sound" in the opinion of our author, we will for the sake of illustration, suppose that these meet with three deaths in every "hundred sick persons." That physician in private practice who treats 200 *sick* people in a year, may be said to have a large practice, which our friend, the author, from his own experience, will not gainsay. Therefore, thirty-five Homœopathists would lose six patients each, making 210 out of 10,851. Upon whom therefore rests the responsibility of the balance? The author must divide it among his associates, who oppose Homœopathy. But we challenge investigation of the certificates of death, filed in the city Inspector's office in 1845, and we do not believe that those signed by the Homœopathic physicians will amount to fifty. If these statements are not true or nearly so, it is in the power of any doubter to establish the truth in the premises. Here, then, is another specimen of the contemptible deception attempted to be practiced upon the public, by the author of "Homœopathy Examined."

It may be thought that we have gone far enough into this artful paper, but we beg indulgence, that we may examine a case which is reported by our author, that happened under his own eye:

"In the winter of 1833, a gentleman of this city who had been previously to that time my patient, and in the habit of calling on me, happened to live next door to a physician, not then in great repute either as a professional man or a gentleman. Having some leisure on his hands, he frequently visited the family of my patient, and uniformly urged in his conversations the wonderful advantages of his favorite system. He inveighed against blood-letting—said that it diminished longevity, and was never necessary; he had, he said, the means of destroying the inflammatory diathesis without di-

minishing the amount of blood. He quoted Scripture. 'The blood thereof is the life thereof,' he declared the shedding of it was impious, as well as injurious, and that he could attain all the desirable ends of that practice without any of its evils.

He succeeded in exciting, in this manner, a great aversion to venesection, and with this sort of morals, which I should be very happy to consider unknown among medical men, he hesitated not, to reflect on their family physician, as using the very practice to which he objected.

The gentleman after a time was attacked with a well marked case of pleurisy. The Homœopath was called: so far as a blood-letting went, he had already tied his hands with what he had said. The patient suffered the severe pain attending this complaint, for nearly a week without relief, although he was salivated by the minute powders he was compelled constantly to take.

The late Dr. Gram, the first who practised Homœopathy in the city, was called in to consult, who instantly directed blood-letting, by which the acute symptoms were relieved; but the patient is still a victim to, and living witness of, the results of this atrocious practice.

When I saw this gentleman, my former patient, in the summer of 1834, during the second cholera, every nail of his fingers was separated from its attachment to the very root, and I was consulted to know what was the cause and how it could be remedied. The patient attributed it to the salivation, but for my own part I was disposed to regard it as the effect of suffering the inflammatory affection to remain so long unrelieved; an opinion in which I am confirmed by the great relief he has experienced in the condition of his fingers, by losing blood subsequently, viz: in 1843 and 1844, on the former occasion for nephritis and on the latter for pleuritis.

Even at the present time the nails are but partially attached, and are all of them hypertrophied. It is hardly necessary to say that a patient so maltreated, has been the subject since, of a lesion of the affected lung, from which it is impossible to recover. Adhesion exists, his pulse is always above eighty, and although he still improves of his cough, and did so particularly, immediately after the bleedings which were used, he has yet a chronic cough of twelve years standing."

Now let us analyse this case. It was pleurisy, and had existed for *nearly* a week. He was then bled, and the acute symptoms were relieved. "But the patient is still a victim to, and a living witness of, the results of this atrocious practice." What practice? Why as the sentence reads, to the "atrocious practice" of blood-letting. We do not suppose that the author meant to say so, but he does say so, and he is a learned man, and one of the "sound" Doctors, therefore he is presumed to know how to place words in relation to one another to express his meaning. Look at another point: this patient is represented to have been for



"nearly a week" under Homœopathic treatment, and yet during this time "he was salivated." This won't do—it was not Homœopathy—far from it;—it was Allopathy, as thousands will recognise without our aid—Homœopathy indeed!!

That which is said of "every nail of the fingers," &c. &c., we leave to the Allopathic school, especially and particularly to the "pathological school," and if they can swallow that dose, we shall believe that they can gulp down any absurdity. Adhesion is said to have taken place, and we think it is not unlikely that it may exist in this patient, for it does so in a large portion of our population, and no inconvenience is experienced by it; but it is the first time we ever heard that a pulse "always above eighty," is evidence of it. It will require more labor and time to secure the confidence of the profession in this symptom as diagnostic, than in Homœopathy.

We cannot spare any more room for further remarks. "Homœopathy Examined" is really the weakest of the weak, of the kind, and we must say that we regret exceedingly for the sake of the author that it ever appeared. If in what we have said, we have been severe, it has not been from any unkind feelings towards the author, but the occasion is such that it is not our fault, for we advocate "*similia similibus curantur*," as applicable to some other things as well as to the cure of diseases.

*To the Editors of the American Journal of Homœopathy:*

JUNE 9, 1846.

GENTLEMEN:—The peculiar character of my work, as the only one of the kind within my knowledge, when reviewed in reference to my disinterested position, may be safely left to speak for itself. Its own testimony is quite conclusive, that in presenting Homœopathy to the public, as she is or as she appeared to me, in all her simplicity and undisguised form of beauty, I was laboring at a task, which, I thought, remained yet to be done, and which I deemed at the same time absolutely necessary to the increase of power in the dispensation of her blessings to my fellow creatures. Your notice of the work is, therefore, a gratifying proof that you do justice to my motives; that you are ready to give the hand of welcome to a zealous laborer in the same field, although he may not be one of the craft; that you belong to the faithful disciples in spirit and practice; that in contemplating her genuine self you perceive the features drawn by me, recognized and ap-

proved by her immortal sire; and that, in short, you have placed yourself in a striking and edifying contrast with those who, either from some unexplained personal hostility to me, or from the ignoble impulses of the trade rejecting every thing as valueless that is not from their shop or of their manufacture; from the inability to decide on the merits or demerits of a revelation the object of which is still to them a mystery, or, what is most probable, from a secret renunciation of the creed openly professed, have, uniformly and up to the present time, declined to accept or in any wise countenance my humble tribute to the common cause, and with a studied, disdainful silence, implying that the thing was not worth notice, passed over that very work, which by the highest of approvals has since been rescued from this nullifying implication.

I am the more pleased with your notice, as it places me at liberty to invoke you farther and most particular attention to what I consider as the most pregnant item of my second edition, and which is the main cause of my now addressing you—the article on Hydrophœbia and its proposed antidote. If you happen to know of what I am still ignorant, that the remedy in question has been tried and failed, you will enact the part of a friend by stating the fact, and putting an end to all the anxieties of expectation; but, if you have no such information, I conjure you in the name of charity, in the cause of humanity, to leave nothing undone that can be done by your professional exertions, to direct the public attention to the subject, so that the next victim may not be disposed of without the chance and benefit of the experiment so much desired and needed. The public press, through the various channels of which I have made several attempts to spread the knowledge of an antidote of so much promise, has shown itself cruelly callous and pitiless. Such physicians of the old school as may have been informed of it, while the opportunity for a trial was in their power, were inhuman enough to let the patient die in their hands, rather than give him up to a treatment not laid down in their medical code of instruction. Homœopathic editors have evinced indifference still more criminal, considering the vital importance of the stake, and their relative position. Let it, therefore be your enviable lot to furnish an honorable exception, and should it lead to a successful issue, enjoy the reward of an approving conscience with the applause and gratitude of mankind, fairly earned.

THE AUTHOR OF HOMŒOPATHIA REVEALED.



## LONDON HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL INSTITUTION,

*Founded by W. Leaf, Esq. Supported by voluntary contributions.*

This is one of the many institutions in Europe for the advancement of Homœopathy, and the diffusion of its blessings—especially amongst the poor. That Homœopathy is a blessing to both rich and poor, is conclusive, from the fact that it is founded upon a law of nature, a law at once demonstrating the goodness and the perfection of *Deity*. He has established a relation between drugs and disease, and endowed us with intellect to discover this relation. Mankind are afflicted with diseases of a specific and permanent character, originating in contagious miasms, capable of so altering the vital action by their dynamic influence, as to give rise to those innumerable and tormenting affections, known as chronic, and which so disturb and embitter human life, as to render existence a burden to thousands, and which remain in the system, shortening life, and descending from generation to generation. Affections of this nature (depending upon these causes) never have been cured, till the discovery of this relation—the specific action of drugs on disease.

Well may we appeal to the benevolent and the good, to the philanthropist, the political economist, to physiological reformer; to all who love nature and nature's laws; to all who would promote the physical and moral happiness of mankind, who seek the advancement and perfection of the human race, who would relieve suffering humanity, and eradicate disease from the human system.

And, we appeal to the physician, to put to test his boasted intelligence and liberality; the purity of his sentiments and professions for the cure of disease, and the *permanent* health of his patients, *to prove this law*. If true its blessings are incalculable. If indeed it be one of the Creator's laws, who would live and die in ignorance of it? Surely not the Christian, the philanthropist; surely not the man who is bound by all that is holy in moral obligation to do all, and to do the best within the means of science for those dependant upon his care, and skill, and good faith, for all that is valuable in life or to be feared in death.

We may appeal, earnestly appeal, to such to test this law. To *know* whether or not drugs produce the effects upon the human system that thousands of intelligent and honest physi-

cians testify to; to know whether or not drugs will cure in small doses, diseases similar to such as these will cause.

We copy from the address of the Institution:

"It is now upwards of three years since the London Homœopathic Dispensary was established by Mr. LEAF, in Ely Place, Holborn, for the combined purposes of enabling the afflicted poor to partake of the advantages of medical treatment upon Homœopathic principles—of extending as widely as possible a knowledge of the merits and advantages of Homœopathy by practically demonstrating its superior efficacy as a mode of cure—and of offering to the medical profession opportunities for testing by personal observation the application, action, and results of the medicines employed. From the period of its organization about 4000 patients have been admitted, of whom a large majority were suffering under maladies of a long standing and complicated character, unsuccessfully treated in the public hospitals, or elsewhere, by the ordinary mode of practice. Notwithstanding these unfavorable circumstances under which the patients were received, the cures performed by Homœopathic treatment have been so striking and undeniable, that it has become necessary to provide increased accommodation to meet the urgent and continually augmenting claims for admission.

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To those who have acquired any experience of the treatment of maladies by the Homœopathic system, little further need be urged upon the necessity of awakening a general sense of its advantages, and upon the duty which they owe to diffuse amongst others the means of enjoying benefits similar to those of which they have themselves partaken. Aware that the system is founded on an immutable law of nature, and that it is only by obedience to this law that the ravages of disease can be successfully combated, they will cheerfully recognize the task which devolves upon them of spreading a knowledge of the blessings which it offers. That this can best be promoted by the establishment of a public Institution, its promoters trust that they have sufficiently shown, and they appeal, therefore, confidently but earnestly to the co-operation of those who would rejoice to feel that in alleviating the sufferings of their less fortunate fellow-creatures they are at the same time aiding in the diffusion of one of the most important truths that ever dawned upon mankind."

Appended to the Address and Rules and Regulations of the Institution, is a list of the names of some 7 or 800 contributors to its support, from all ranks and classes, in sums from £1 to £50 donations, and from £1 to £10 yearly contributions. If Homœopathy be the true science of healing, may we not hope to see its benefits enjoyed in this city, and throughout our country, by the establishment and support of Dispensaries and Hospitals.



## A CASE OF DYSENTERY.

A RETIRED MERCHANT, AGED 70.

6th July, 1844.—Sallow and unhealthy looking and very spare. Incomplete paralysis of the lower limbs, and incontinence of urine, for several years. On the 3d inst., began to perceive some blood in his stools; and for two days before had looseness of bowels. Yesterday, and last night, the calls to stools very frequent. Between bed-time and the present, (half-past 8, A. M.,) has been up ten or twelve times. Is inclined to sit long at stool, with straining; and usually passes blood, or bloody mucus. Skin hot and moist. Pulse 100, full and soft. Tongue whitish. Pain, and tenderness about umbilicus. Mercurius solub. 6, Tinct. Aconite, half drop, alternately, every two hours.

Half-past one, P. M.—Is dressed and sitting up. Pulse 90, moderate. Has had three doses, and been at stool thrice, with little uneasiness and no blood. The evacuations are mixed with his water, and seem partly to have been of mucus. Continue medicine.

7th, two, P. M.—Rather worse during the night; up seven times, and several times to-day; little straining; little blood. Some tenderness at right side of hypogastrium. Pulse 90, firm. Much thirst. Tongue furred. Appetite capricious; but demanded an egg to breakfast, as he had done yesterday. Poultice to hypogastrium. Merc. 6, every third hour.

8th, noon.—Pulse 84. Four or five stools during the night; feculent, without blood; and no straining. Continue medicine.

9th, noon.—No stool since yesterday at 5. A good night. Pulse 80. Skin cool. Tongue moist and cleaning.

10th.—Has felt quite well since.

PROF. HENDERSON.

The above case contrasts very favorably with the ordinary allopathic practice in such conditions. In both schools the remedy is mercury. The above was cured in less than three days. In the old school with calomel and opium, two grains of the former every two or three hours, might have aggravated, and the cure protracted for weeks, if effected at all. And besides this, the use of mercury in large doses in this complaint is almost certain to predispose the patient to similar and repeated attacks. The above case of Prof. H's was, we think, dosed too much, and the cure prolonged thereby. So far as our experience goes, one or two doses of the 3d or 12th trituration of *mercurius corrosivus*, would have cured it in a much less time.

## LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

\* Health is consequent upon the natural and undisturbed action of the vital power. Disease is the result of its disturbance.

Drugs are poisons, and their influence upon the human system is highly subversive of its healthy action. They should never be used in large doses, nor is there any necessity whatever for their use. The ordinary attacks of disease, no matter what their form or by what name they may be designated, are more often aggravated and rendered incurable by the use of drugs, than any benefit is derived therefrom. Other, better, safer, and more prompt means are at hand when it is necessary for art to interfere. Diet and the judicious use of water, will suffice when the circumstances will not admit of remedies homœopathically selected. Drugs affect the system specifically, that is, they alter the vital action in a peculiar way, and cannot be taken with impunity. Their effects upon the system are permanent, and the fact that they have often been found to afford relief is no apology for their use, or argument against their permanent and injurious effects. For they are capable of producing more serious, permanent, and incurable difficulties, than that they may be given to cure.

We have no design of appealing to popular prejudice. We are stating truth, long and often acknowledged by the elder and more intelligent physicians of every school; and which may be abundantly illustrated and established. It is enough for our present purpose to know, that they are poisons; that they exert an unnatural and destructive influence upon the vital action; and that their use is deprecated by physiologists, and is not compatible with the laws of health.

Taken to relieve or palliate one difficulty, they remain in the system, predisposing it to repeated attacks of a hundred others. Taken repeatedly and in large doses, they produce specific effects of more or less dangerous and permanent character; and which are always more serious, obstinate, and tormenting, than the condition that invoked their aid! Uniting with some morbid disturbing agent, pre-existent in the system, they arouse it into activity, add intensity to its action; or destroy its individuality, complicate its effects, and put it in a false or unknown relation to its legitimate antidote, or remedial agent.

The long list of miserable beings whose sufferings from debility, indigestion, nervousness, hypochondriasis etc., may date the aggravation, intensify, and durability of their derangements from the commencement of a course of drugging.

In chronic diseases, dependant upon a latent



virus, inimical to the healthy action of the vital power; drugs generally, far from possessing any curative power, only serve to weaken and debilitate the system, lower the tone of the vital action, render it more susceptible to the influence of disturbing causes, and powerless to maintain the mastery and exercise its control over the organism. Better far to have husbanded all the resources of nature, invigorated, by attention to the natural laws of health, the conservative powers of the system; to have maintained and sought to elevate by mental effort and physical exertion, its tone and strength.

Drugs should never be taken except when known to have a curative relation to the existing condition. They never should be taken mixed or compounded, for in this way they cannot be administered upon any known scientific principle; and their curative effects can never be determined. And they should never be taken in quantities that are sure to aggravate, rather than in such as are adequate to cure.

#### NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY,

We take the following from the last No. of the Examiner:

"This institution was established by Drs. S. R. Kirby, P. P. Wells, and James M. Quin, in September, 1845, and the first patient was received on the 1st of October following. The Dispensary was open for one hour daily, and the three physicians attended each day. This daily attendance was found to be a considerable tax on the time of gentlemen engaged in the daily practice of their profession, and, to obviate this difficulty, as well as to bring greater interest to bear, four other medical gentlemen were associated with the founders of the institution, while Dr. Wells, whose residence in Brooklyn presented an insurmountable obstacle to his attendance at the Dispensary, retired. Two gentlemen are in attendance each day, so that each physician is required to devote only two hours a week to the duties of the Dispensary. This arrangement at once lightens the duties and ensures punctual attendance, which is of the utmost importance. After the commencement of the undertaking a circular was addressed to the laity, asking their support and setting forth the terms of subscription, and a circular to the physicians throughout the Union. During the winter months, and before the increase in the number of physicians, the attend-

ance of the physicians was irregular and uncertain, and for a month, none at all. Under all these disadvantageous circumstances, however, the number of patients admitted to the 1st of May was one hundred and one, and among the diseases treated, were the following; viz., syphilis, phthisis pulmonalis, ascites, catarrhus bronchialis and pulmonalis, laryngitis, cystitis, herpes, tinea, polypus aurium, megrim, chorea, onychia, cephalalgia, otorrhea purulenta, traumatic iritis, neuralgia faciei, leucorrhœa, dysmenorrhea, metrorrhagia, angini tonsillaris, enteralgia, dyspepsia, asthma, ascarides, pertussis, icterus, ophthalmia acute and chronic, influenza, rheumatismus vagus, enuresis, gastralgia, &c. A full report of the transactions of the Dispensary will, in due season, be laid before the public and the profession.

The following gentlemen are in attendance on the days opposite their respective names, viz:—

|                 |   |                        |
|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| Mon. and Thur.  | - | Drs. Barlow and Kirby. |
| Tues and Friday | - | " Cook and Snow.       |
| Wed. and Sat.   | - | " Bowers and Quin.     |

This is the first institution of the kind established in the United States, and deserves to be encouraged and aided by the friends of our cause. We shall be glad to record the progress of the institution, and beg the gentlemen under whose superintendence it now flourishes, to accept our best wishes."

We are desirous that the friends of Homœopathy should acquaint themselves with the objects and prospects of this infant Institution. There are those in our city who would rejoice to be its patrons—who would be the first to foster and to establish it upon a firm and enduring basis—who would endow it with the means to extend its usefulness, and make it an institution worthy of Homœopathy, and creditable to the city of New York.

We need not point to the prospering and extended Institutions of Europe. The love of science and desire to make New York vie with any city in the world for the liberal support she extends to Benevolent Institutions, secures to one of this character the fostering hand of those who believe Homœopathy to be the true art of medicine, and the only art that can eradicate those diseases that most generally and permanently afflict mankind, and whose contaminating influence is from generation to generation, and whose tendency is to degenerate the race and shorten the period of human life.



### TRIALS OF DRUGS.

We regard the resolutions of the Institute recommending the formation of local societies on the basis by the American Institute, and the appointing of them of Bureaus, to co-operate with the central Bureau, for the augmentation and *improvement* of the Materia Medica, as one of the best measures of this last or any former session of the Institute. This plan if carried out in a right spirit and proper manner, we look upon as of vast interest to the progress of Homœopathy and the prospects and usefulness of the Institution.

By these means the Materia Medica can be *perfected* and enlarged to meet the demands of every conceivable form and variety of disease. An amount of testimony will be collected that will force conviction upon every intelligent mind, and establish speedily and permanently the specific and curative powers of drugs. It is a great and glorious work, and if we thought one word was necessary to induce physicians to enter at once and zealously upon it, we would urge it earnestly.

The principle upon which these trials are made, being true, it is impossible they should be made without absolute demonstration, to an extent which shall compel conviction and conversion, immediate and universal.

True, these trials must be made at the sacrifice of time, comfort and health. True, they will be attended with many privations and sufferings. But it is also true, that he who makes them proves at once his sincerity and devotion to science. True, he will establish direct and certain means for alleviating the sufferings of his fellow beings. True, he will have done something for the eradication of disease, and the improvement of the physical and intellectual powers of the human race; and true that his labors will endure so long as disease disturbs the vital powers, or sufferings afflict the human race.

The names of A. D. Wilson, M. D., of New-York, J. G. Loomis, M. D., Syracuse, —Royston, M. D., Seneca Falls, A. P. Cook, M. D., Hudson, N. Y., and John Orme, M. D., Pa., were omitted in the list of members of the Institute of Homœopathy.

*Reasons why Homœopathy should receive an impartial investigation from the medical profession and the public.* By B. F. BOWERS, M. D.—A pamphlet of 24 pp., published by Radde.

It is well written, and should be read by every body.

### NEW-YORK HOMŒOPATHIC PHYSICIAN'S SOCIETY.

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The above Establishment being conducted upon entirely different principles from many others, furnishes the public with good opportunity of having work done on correct principles—without requiring exorbitant profits to feed hungry and numerous mortgages, &c. A steady business—small profits—and cash customers—are the peculiarities the Proprietor intends distinguishing his Office—and orders will continue to be attended to with the usual punctuality.

### HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Smith's Homœopathic Pharmacy, 592 Broadway, adjoining Niblo's Theatre. John T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's, Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order Homœopathic Plasters, a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's, Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jahr's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I.

New-York, Saturday, July 4, 1846.

NO. 6.

DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

**J. H. Tobitt, Printer,**

*No. 9 Spruce-street, New-York.*

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 592 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway; and at Van Beuren's, 223 Bleeker street.

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New-York, Saturday, July 4, 1846.

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## "MODERN EMPIRICISM."

This is the head of a communication in the "*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*." We notice it, because the occasion allows us to say what has been on our mind for some time.—The writer signs his name L. W., of New Britain, Ct. From some cause, which does not clearly appear, L. W. was in an ill-humor, which is unfortunate; for had it been otherwise, he might have managed his side of the question with more ability: that is, he might have avoided mere declamation, and introduced

some of the speculations of the old school, and called them facts. But this is no affair of ours, therefore, we take him as we find him, ill humor and all. An unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, which manifests itself in lofty airs, and in contempt of others, amounts to almost a *mania* with some members of the allopathic school of medicine. The writer of the article before us, is a choice specimen of this condition, as will appear in these words: "A more complete separation from them [Homœopathists] than now exists on the part of the regularly educated practitioner, would be better, and result in a more clear distinction, in the public mind, of their proper merit."

We can assure L. W. that "the public mind" has already drawn a pretty clear distinction between the Allopathic and the Homœopathic practitioner. And the public know, also, that those who have embraced Homœopathy, are better educated than those who oppose it, for the former are not only, with but few exceptions, graduates of medical colleges, but they have superadded a knowledge of Homœopathy, which gives them a decided advantage over the latter, who have studied Allopathy only. It is, also, to the individual interest of every Homœopathist, that "a more complete separation" should take place, in accordance with the above expressed opinion of L. W. Therefore, we want the public to know that there is a difference between the old and new school, and we are resolved upon it, that it shall know precisely what that difference is.

We intend that the public shall know, that the Homœopathist advocates a true, permanent, and a universal law of cure;—a law which can be relied upon under any circumstances, both in acute and chronic diseases.—And also, that he advocates the attenuation of drugs, or the doctrine of potencies (as it is termed) to fit drugs to act, in a prompt, safe,



and pleasant manner, on the human system in a state of disease, in harmony with the law of cure; *similia similibus curantur*.

And we are resolved further, that the public shall know, that the only mode by which to determine the truth or falsity of Homœopathy, is by experience. That it is not at all an object of reason, as every *really educated* physician ought to know, until appropriate experiments have been made to test its principles. After the principles upon which it is based shall have been ascertained, then, and not until then, has reason any materials with which to act in the premises. For almost sixty years has Homœopathy been living and moving in the world as a system; and yet many of these "regularly educated," though not *really educated* Allopathic "practitioners," have not been able to perceive so plain a matter as was stated by Hahnemann in these few words: "Do as I have done; be careful, and you shall get my results." Those "regularly educated" men like L. W., have not to this moment comprehended the meaning of this sentence, although they have looked at it for forty years.

L. W. fires away at the small doses, as all like him do; but he gives us no evidence that he has tried the thirtieth potence of the muriate of soda, to which he refers; therefore, all he has said about it, and the "globules of plumbum," amounts to just nothing at all.

The attenuation of drugs, or the doctrine of potencies, has been treated of by us several times already, and it is our intention to notice it frequently; and we do so now, for it is appropriate to our present purpose. This, which is, in our opinion, an essential branch of Homœopathy, is capable of the most positive demonstration.

The discovery of the dynamization of drugs belongs exclusively to Hahnemann. No one, until his time, ever suspected the capabilities of drugs in this respect; and to our minds it is far more clear, if it is possible to be so, than the law, "like cured by like." Not only can it be demonstrated by experiment, but the world is full of phenomena, which no one doubts, that goes to confirm its truth; and there is not a single fact in all the range of philosophy, that is opposed to Hahnemann's doctrine of the potencies of drugs.

Allopathic books for nearly twenty-four hundred years are full of facts, which go directly to confirm this doctrine; there is not a day of our lives but that we have experience, if we would observe properly, which goes to establish it an immutable truth.

The principle involved in the doctrine of the potencies of drugs, is—that *ponderable quantity is not essential to the manifestation of power*. It is well known, that the most powerful agents in nature cannot be said to be ponderable. Who doubts the power of sounds, of thoughts, and of magnetism, &c.? and yet, they cannot be weighed. Do we believe in the results of the magnetic telegraph, and doubt the power of a virulent poison in its sphere, simply because it is highly attenuated, and thereby deprived of weight?

All experience teaches that Hahnemann was right, when he declared that the potency of a drug was increased by separating the gross materials by attenuation. This assertion of a fact has been, and is now, little understood; it is often brought forward as an objection to the small doses, and is exhibited as one of the greatest absurdities. Let us examine it, and see if there is not a great and important truth concealed under a seemingly inconsistent and false statement. What did Hahnemann mean? He meant, and it was all he meant, that the *curative* power of drugs was developed by attenuation. He says, in section 269 of the Organon:

"The Homœopathic healing art develops for its purposes the immaterial (dynamic) virtues of medicinal substances, and, to a degree previously unheard of, by means of a peculiar and hitherto untried process. By this process it is that they become penetrating, operative, and remedial, even those that, in a natural or crude state, betrayed not the least medicinal power upon the human system."

Mark! it is the *curative* power of drugs of which he is speaking, and not of their *poisonous* effects.

Now, if we make this distinction, which should be made to get at the truth, then we have this very important fact developed, viz: That drugs have a curative effect, and they have a poisonous effect;—the one excites dynamic changes in the vital force, in health and in disease, which lasts for a certain period and goes off without injury to the system; at the same time, from thousands of experiments, we learn that it is sufficiently powerful to subdue natural diseases, however violent. This is the point; and it is to this that Hahnemann refers when speaking of the increased potencies of drugs, by his process of attenuation. Our next remark is, that the drugs administered in poisonous doses do not act curatively, but their tendency is, to destroy life. This cannot be doubted, and we state a singular fact, that the



law *similia similibus curantur*, does not recognize large and poisonous doses of drugs. In every instance of doubt and opposition to this law, with which we are acquainted, the test of it was made by large and poisonous doses of drugs, and the result was unsatisfactory. And here we will state what will, we have no doubt, soon be classed among facts: that those who attempt to practice Homœopathically, with massive doses or the mother tinctures, fail to cure diseases, which are promptly cured by the appropriate attenuated drug.

If there is a physician or layman in the world, who has had his faith shaken in Homœopathy, it has been in the administration of poisonous doses of drugs; in such doses, if persevered in, as would have produced death. Now, the fact is, and we are most happy that it comes in our way to express it, that attenuated drugs from, say the 3rd or 6th, up to the 30th, never cause death of themselves; their tendency is to effect a dynamic change in the vital forces, and is applied agreeably to the law of cure "like cured like," the effect is prompt and permanent. Unless this point be understood and kept in view, much of what Hahnemann has said, will be misapprehended. Drugs, then, when placed in a certain state, and applied in accordance with a certain law, have curative effects; but if given in large doses in the crude state, the tendency is to destructive effects, as is amply proved by thousands of cases, which nobody will deny. Here, then, we take our position in favor of the doctrine of potencies, as discovered and taught by Hahnemann.

We may not be fully understood in what we mean to embrace by the poisonous effects of drugs. Let it therefore be known, that every drug that may be administered in a sufficient quantity to cause emesis or catharsis, acts poisonously, and thousands have lost their lives by emetics and cathartics. Dare any intelligent physician deny this? We think not; for such an one would know, that ample evidence of the fact could be produced. We will only remark further, on this point, that it is beyond a doubt with those who have knowledge on the subject, that thousands upon thousands of human beings are at this moment suffering in their bodies and minds from the effects of drugs taken by themselves, or by the advice of Allopathic physicians. We have done little more than introduced this subject; and we shall, from time to time, enlarge upon the different topics embraced in it. We recommend L. W. to try his hand again,—he may do better; but espe-

cially do we urge upon him to apologize for his rudeness towards the venerable Dr. Ingalls.

### IDIOSYNCRACY.

A peculiarity of constitution, in which a person affected by certain agents which if applied to a hundred other persons would produce no effect, is called an Idiosyncrasy. Thus a gentleman was so affected by the smell of onions as to produce great nausea with fainting. He was invited to dine with a company of friends to whom this peculiarity or idiosyncrasy was well known, and of course the onion was carefully excluded from the feast both as a vegetable and a dressing. But scarcely had the various dishes been placed upon the table, from which arose the odors of the meats, vegetables and sauces, when the gentleman felt a nausea and a tendency to faint. It was like the onion sickness; but he was assured by the hostess that particular orders had been given to the cook to dispense with the use of the onion altogether. The cook was questioned, who declared that she had obeyed her instructions to the letter. But this statement would not stay the gentleman's suffering; and it was set down as a strong instance of the power of imagination. The only thing, by a bare possibility, which might secrete the forbidden onion, was a head of lettuce which graced the centre of the table. The lettuce was examined, not from any expectation of finding it there, but rather to make the proof complete; when, lo! in the head of the plant was found one small onion, whose fimbriated roots held it to its place during the washing of the plant. This was related to the writer by a clergyman, formerly a physician, and who knew the parties well. It was stated as a remarkable instance of the impressibility of the human nerve.

The Homœopathic physician meets every day, in his practice, with this peculiarity of constitution—this Idiosyncrasy—this extreme susceptibility to some agent in his *materia medica*.

Through the researches of Homœopathia it is now known, that disease always creates an extreme impressibility in the human system to some one substance, either in the animal, vegetable; or mineral kingdoms. We have only to study and examine substances, as that system requires, upon the healthy individual, and it can always be determined with certainty and exactness, what agent in atomic doses would be felt with power through the human frame.



It is here that the Homœopathist gains his power—not in the size or quantity of the dose, but in the peculiar relation in which its action stands to the suffering sick. Many practitioners, therefore, ignorant of that relation, have produced suffering and death by an ordinary dose, which they may have administered to hundreds of others with impunity.

A young gentleman, who had consulted a Homœopathic physician as to his health, and received from him medicine, entering his office next day, said, "Doctor, I shall be poisoned before night. You have the *Rhus Toxicodendron*, growing at your door, and I cannot come within ten feet of this plant without being poisoned." The doctor answered, "when I examined you, I became aware of your susceptibility to the *Rhus*, from the correspondence of your symptoms to the known action of the *Rhus*, and I therefore gave it to you to take." The young gentleman replied, "after taking the powder, I felt less of my complaint, and am now better." The doctor then remarked, "that in the altered state of his system, he would find his susceptibility to this plant lost;" and it was so. He was not poisoned, nor has he since (a period of two years) been affected by it when in its neighborhood—a proximity that heretofore produced great constitutional disturbance.

Hundreds of others have been as much exposed to the influence of that plant as the young gentleman, and yet have felt no effects from it.

A dose, thus taken by olfaction from an odorless plant, acts as a poison, while a *still more attenuated dose* has a healing influence upon the deranged system.

There is nothing in nature so sensitive to certain impressions as a diseased nerve, and yet that delicacy is little considered in prescriptions which may be the commencement of sorrow.

"There are many facts which tend to prove that the action of this apparatus (the great nervous centre) is of an electric nature, a modification of that surprising assent which takes magnetism, heat, and light, as other subordinate forms, and of whose general scope in this great system of things, we are only beginning to have a right conception.

It has been found that simple electricity, artificially produced, and sent along the nerves of a dead body, excites muscular action.

The brain of a newly killed animal being taken out and replaced by a substance which produces electric action, the operation of di-

gestion, which had been interrupted by the death of the animal, was resumed, showing the absolute identity of the brain with a galvanic battery. Nor is this a very startling idea, when we reflect that electricity is almost as metaphysical as ever mind was supposed to be. It is a thing perfectly intangible, weightless.

A mass of metal may be magnetized, or heated to seven hundred of Fahrenheit, without being the hundredth of a grain heavier. And yet electricity is a real thing, an actual existence in nature; as, witness the effects of heat and life in vegetation—the power of the galvanic current, to re-assemble the particles of copper from a solution, and make them again into a solid plate—the rending force of a thunderbolt as it strikes the oak. See also how both heat and light observe the angle of incidence in reflection, as exactly as does the grossest stone thrown obliquely against the wall. So mental action may be imponderable, intangible, and yet a real existence, and ruled by the Eternal through his laws."

#### LAWS OF HEALTH.—DISEASE.

We have remarked that diseases of a specific character, originating in miasmata, known or unknown, are readily cured by such drugs, in appropriate doses, as are known to produce effects in the system similar to those produced by the disease. There is a natural relation existing between drugs and diseases of this character. The principle "*similia similibus curantur*" determines this relation, and will apply with the greatest certainty of cure. The administration of drugs in large doses affect and seriously disturb this relation. Drugs are capable of altering the vital action, determining it upon the various structures, and of giving it a specific direction. The effects of some drugs are often, if not always, permanent. In some cases the influence of mercury, for instance, as is well known to the profession, is lasting. It never ceases; and thousands suffer from it for years, and so long as they live. It produces incalculable and irreparable mischief, for it is capable not only of altering the relation of the natural disease to its specific remedy, but of establishing a condition in the system that is positively incurable. It creates an artificial disease, that does not stand in the same relation to the law of cure that natural diseases do.

Its more permanent and specific effect, is either unknown or disregarded by those who

employ it in large doses. It is capable of producing every condition it may ordinarily relieve or palliate. Its use predisposes the system to what are called "bilious attacks." These attacks annoy persons who have been accustomed to seek relief from them by the use of mercury—rarely those who never have used it.

Its action is peculiar upon the liver, causing inflammation, deranged function, swellings and induration of that organ, and consequently a long train of disturbances throughout the system. Its action upon the glandular system; upon the teeth and gums; its tendency to predispose the system to rheumatism, etc., for years after its use, are evidences, too familiar with every one, and too conclusive of its baneful and permanent effects, to require exposition. Our object is to develop principles.

The indication in every case of suffering from disease is to remove the cause. The physician finds the system disturbed by some morbid cause, and knowing neither its nature, nor having any rule to guide him in the application of means for its expulsion, he resorts to a counter disturbance in the hope that nature may be better able to overcome the original cause, provided it be *increased*, diffused, or diverted from particular organs.

The doctor, fearful of the encounter when the system is in full possession of its powers of resistance, knocks it down with his lancet, and drugs, for fear the disease may do it, and leaves nature the poor chance of doing, more at leisure, and on the principle of starvation, what she was fully competent in the first place to have done,—to have repelled the invasion,—or what the doctor should have enabled her to do, did he interfere at all.

The whole therapeutic art has hitherto consisted in doing something to disturb the system, in a manner different from that produced by disease, to the utter neglect of either considering the cause, or any attempt to remove it. The doctor adds another disturbance, not knowing what else to do, and leaves nature to struggle against the original cause and the new disturbance, as best she may.

This is the principle of treatment in every school, though the means of its accomplishment may be various,—of which we shall have more to say.

The use of drugs on this experimental principle is highly reprehensible. They alter, it is true, the vital action, but the physician has no

means of determining the direction they may give to it. It may be one that he can never arrest. It is hazardous to try it. He should not do it till he knows what alteration his remedy may produce, and its termination. By the use of his drug, he may give the vital action a tendency toward health, and he may not.

The emetic or cathartic he is about to administer *may* determine a case fatally. If he does not know that it will not, he should not give it. That it may, he has but to comprehend the dynamic character of disease and the specific effects of drugs, to believe.

### CHOLERA IN RUSSIA.

*Extract of a letter from Madam Lvoff, to her father, Admiral Morzinow, dated in the government of Saratow, August 6th, 1841.*

"The dreadful cholera broke out last month in our own village and its vicinity with the greatest fury. My husband was the first person attacked; but, thanks to Homœopathy, was cured in a few days. From a desire to relieve the sufferings of humanity, he visited all the places in the neighborhood wherever the disease raged the most; administered the remedies; instructed the priests and the elders in the use of them; and was whole weeks thus employed, while I remained at home occupied with the preparation of Homœopathic powders. Four hundred cholera patients, saved and restored to perfect health, was the gratifying reward of his zeal and the triumphant result of Homœopathic doses liberally distributed to all who applied for them. We are all now so well convinced of the miraculous power of this system, that we cannot sufficiently deplore the ignorance that *cannot*, and still more, the obstinate prejudice that *will not* invoke its aid, and thereby rescue relatives and friends from certain death. The Asiatic cholera, preceded by terror, ushered in by danger, and followed by desolation, comes now, remains, and departs a harmless thing. Its cure is in reality easier than that of a fever. Multiplied experiments, and consequent confidence in Homœopathic treatment, have divested it of all appalling attributes, by subjugating it entirely to the skill of man. We had fifty patients in our own village, and not one of them died. On the estate of my sister-in-law, there were likewise a good many cases, but no deaths. There is also an abundance of reason to believe, that the fatal termination of the disease, wherever it occurred, was occasioned altogether by neglect, want of necessary precaution, or deviation from the rules of regimen prescribed by Homœopathia. All the sick who took medicine, in strict conformity to the rules, were saved, although some of them were already in a state of collapse, which apparently precluded all hope. In the last stage, there were not a few with their teeth clenched so fast that it was necessary to force them open for the pur-



pose of introducing the medicine; and yet, on the very day following, they were relieved and convalescent! My good husband, from the constant intercourse with the sick, took the infection several times, but in every instance was restored by a few Homœopathic globules. I short, we consider ourselves perfectly safe from this dreaded scourge, whatever may be its potency and virulence. The repeated numerous trials have more than satisfied us, that in the presence of Homœopathia, with its five remedies only." (*camphor, veratrum album, cupricum metallicum, carbo vegetabilis, and arsenicum album*.) "the Asiatic cholera is not a mortal disease, and still less so when encountered at the commencement."

*No. 2. Results of Homœopathic treatment of the Asiatic cholera in 1830 and 1831, reported to Admiral Mordvinow from various places, by public and private committees, and the proprietors themselves.*

|                                                                   | Sick. | Cured. | Died. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| "In several villages and hamlets in the government of Saratow,    | 625   | 564    | 61    |
| On the estate of Mr. Lvoff,                                       | 50    | 50     |       |
| Estate of Mr. Povalihin,                                          | 38    | 36     | 2     |
| Do. do. Stalipin,                                                 | 13    | 12     | 1     |
| Do. do. Bitiutsky,                                                | 19    | 16     | 3     |
| Do. Baron Bode,                                                   | 188   | 177    | 11    |
| In the government city of Saratow,                                | 39    | 36     | 3     |
| In the gymnasium of the same city,                                | 20    | 20     |       |
| In a village within the possessions of the Don Cozacks,           | 59    | 53     | 6     |
| In two settlements on the Caucasus line,                          | 35    | 69     | 12    |
| Two estates of Mr. Tulinew and Poltoratzky, government of Tambow, | 92    | 37     | 5     |
| Estate of Poltoratzky, government of Twer,                        | 45    | 44     | 1     |
|                                                                   | 1273  | 1162   | 108   |

"N. B. Not a single death has occurred where Homœopathic treatment was resorted to in the incipient symptoms of the cholera.—It was also remarked, that all the patients cured by Homœopathy, regained in a very short time, their former health and strength; while those who survived other treatments were left in a state of weakness which lasted for several months, and but too often terminated in another disease which proved fatal."

[*Homœopathia Revealed.*]

### HAHNEMANN AND HOMŒOPATHY.

Hahneman, a physician, educated in all the branches of the medical profession; a man possessed of a talented and comprehensive mind; a student of nature; nature's favorite; endowed by her with genius to discover, and with powers to understand and develope her thidden mysteries; to seek out and expound ruths which had lain concealed for ages with-

in her bosom; a man of honest purpose and untiring energy; one who spent the best part of his life in the pursuit of science—in developing principles, and subjecting them to the test of rigid experiment.

Hahnemann, the author, discoverer, and founder of Homœopathy.

Who can wonder at the liberal and enlightened malice and envy with which his name has been banded about by those who, assuming the dignity, and the mock solemnity of men of science, while they were inwardly conscious that they were destitute of its elements: who had invested baseless arts and empiricism with the semblance of truth and the garb of principle; who had in solemn conclave determined that such arts and empirical experiments should be stamped *scientific*, and such other, according to fancy, should be left to quacks. No wonder they should seek to underrate and traduce a man who had drawn aside the veil, and at once let in the sunlight of truth where all was darkness, confusion, and ignorance.

No wonder that the developement of a principle that stamped as valueless and bad all their long existing theories, speculations, and practices, should create an unrelenting opposition—an acknowledgment of which would despoil them of a reputation founded upon false assumptions and dependant upon the ignorance of mankind for its continuance.

Homœopathy, the science of the art of healing. A science founded upon an immutable law of nature—"similia similibus curantur"—a law, simple, easily demonstrated, incontrovertible.

Homœopathy, based upon the fact that drugs will produce specific effects upon the human system: that drugs will cure *similar effects* produced by disease. Based upon the fact that drugs will best cure in small doses.

Here is no mysticism—no lack of sound philosophy—no semblance of falsehood.

This is Homœopathy. This is the thing and the only thing at issue between Homœopathy and Allopathy. Is this law *true* or not? By all who have ever tested it, it is declared to be true.

Hundreds of physicians in every country in Europe and in this country have tested and adopted it as the true principle in therapeutics.

Surely the testimony of so many who have tried this principle, is not to be set at nought by the bare assertions of those no more than

equals in intelligence, character, and experience, who have not tried it.

Numerous hospitals have been established to carry out this principle in practice, which are open to the inspection of the profession and the public, and which have published reports of its success, undisputed by any, and satisfactory to all--Allopathists being judges.

It contradicts no known principle in philosophy or science, is opposed to no fact in nature, and ridicule is the only argument opposed to it.

If the opposers of Homœopathy were desirous to know of its truth, nothing could be more easily demonstrated. In order to overthrow it, they must attest that drugs will not produce the effects ascribed to them; or that drugs will not cure similar effects produced by disease.

As this is the only point at issue, they cannot be honest seekers after truth, nor opponents to be feared, so long as they refuse this test.

It is a legitimate question of fact—not a subject for ridicule; and experience should have taught them that ridicule and baseless denunciation will not answer where facts in matters of science are concerned. Is it true or not? If not true, Homœopathy is as foundationless as the "baseless fabric of a vision." If true it will survive alike the follies and errors of its advocates: the abuse of pretenders; and the open attacks of avowed enemies. If true, empiricism may no more be garnished with ignorance. If true, conscience, reason, and humanity will remonstrate against the arts that inflict unnecessary and inexcusable suffering and torture upon the sick; that lay deep and broad the foundation for ruined constitutions and early graves.

If true, ridicule and contempt, will rebound upon their authors with a vengeance humiliating before men, and approved by Him who established it as one of His own laws for the benefit of His creatures.

And finally, if true, it will prove an egg—no matter how it may be cooked or opened—that contains the germ, *destined to full growth* and to overturn, uproot, and leave to dry-rot, all the vain speculations, ignorant assumptions, and empirical arts that for ages have failed to give medicine a place amongst the sciences.

*Evening Mirror.*

The Homœopathic Examiner for June is published.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—In detailing the following case of chronic Catarrh of many years standing, now degenerated into bronchial phthisis, my only object is to append to it two Allopathic prescriptions recently made for it by a couple of "regular," "orthodox" gentlemen of the "pathological school," in one of the Eastern cities in the Union. I need not add, though truth compels me to do so, that the patient had sunk very rapidly under the destructive energies of the "medicines," which she had been using about three weeks when I was called to prescribe for her. Gentlemen of the Homœopathic school, who are skilled in the pathogenesis of remedies, will have no difficulty in fixing the paternity of many of her symptoms upon one or more of the drugs she had been doing so large a business in. Most respectfully, &c..

S. B. B., M. D.

#### CASE.

Mrs. C. W., Æ. 39. married, has children, the youngest is seven years old. Has had Catarrh of many years standing. The discharge formerly consisted of yellow, offensive purulent matter, in large quantity. At present, the sputa is white, tenacious, ropy, frothy mucus, inodorous, and tasteless. Constant wavy, unsteady feeling of the head by day and night, without headache; aphthous, soreness of the mouth and throat to such a degree, that much of the time she is unable to eat any thing; mouth feels as if scalded, much running of water from the mouth. Where the aphthous crusts are removed, the mouth, tongue, palate and throat, present a fiery redness. Dry teasing cough, scarcely expectorates any thing, except what descends into the throat from the head and nares. Has great pain, anguish, and palpitation of the heart; pulse quick, weak and irregular. Constant feeling of confusion of the head, with throbbing, with feelings of utter discouragement and hopelessness as to getting well. Scarcely sleeps at all; and when for a moment she slumbers, she wakes in a fright, with feelings as if her heart ceased beating, with loss of breath, and feelings as of her senses leaving her. Her physical and mental condition is most miserable. Pains and soreness about the left clavicle. No appetite; food produces distress of stomach and bowels. Costiveness prevails constantly. Has Piles all the while, and of all kinds, by alternation. Menstruates regularly; pressing down pains of the uterus. Urinates freely, but with some pain. Pale bloodless



lips; countenance pale, sallow, jaundiced; much emaciated, very feeble, unable to turn in bed, to raise up in bed, and a good share of the time unable to speak aloud. She appears to be within a few days of her end. Recovery is not looked for by her friends,

Has restless, uneasy, drawing, crampy pains and feelings of the legs, night and day. Cold feet and hands; sweats during sleep. Has had chills, heat and sweatings month ago.—Great and very distressing feelings of exhaustion and lifeless sinking. Has had purulent discharge from the left nipple, 7 or 8 month past: bloody pus. Has expectorated bloody mucus on several occasions in bygone months and years. Has failed rapidly while using the following heroic remedies, prescribed by Drs. C. and S.

“R. Bloodroot, 1 oz; Boneset, 4 oz; Ginger root, 2 oz; Liquorice stick, 2 oz. Chamomile flowers,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz; Burdock root, 2 oz; Ext. Dandelion, 4 oz; Ext. Conii, 1 oz; Manna, 2 oz; Figs, 4 oz; Molasses half pint; Water 5 quarts; Holland Gin, 1 pint; Essence Wintergreen, 1 oz. To make into a syrup, of which two-thirds to one wine glassful three times a day, were to be taken.”

“R. Tr. Nux Vomica,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Take ten drops three times a day.”

Here are specimens of polypharmacy, as pretty as a man would wish to see of a summer's day. They would do honor to the times of Culpepper, Dodonæus, or even old Methridates himself, and ought to satisfy any lover of such curious notions, who claims to be reasonable in his desires. And then, to pour large doses of such a farrago of trashy drugs down the throat of a poor, sick, feeble, suffering female! Absolutely horrible! Away with such absurdity.

*Extract from a letter written in Champagne County, Ohio, dated May 20, 1846:—*

“I am pushing the triumphs of Homœopathy throughout all this region. I have just returned from a forty mile visit. I must stop these long rides, as my home practice has become such that I cannot be spared from the neighborhood. If I had time and space I could relate some interesting cases that I have treated and cured, after Allopathy had failed. The time once was, when my Allopathic brethren could laugh and sneer at my infinitesimal doses; but that sneering has changed to mortification and vexation, for it is very plain to be seen, that Homœopathy is not confined to

the ordinary or poor class of society. In the higher circles, as they find that they can be cured promptly with pleasant little doses of medicine, that are not designed to paralyze the effects of nature, but to restore harmony and order to the deranged vital actions, they dread to fall into the hands of an Allopathic drencher, who comes like a butcher with all the *instruments of death*. He *sticks* (with his lancet)—*skins* (with his blisters)—and *guts* (with his calomel). Those who have become acquainted with the healing properties of Homœopathic remedies have no disposition to employ any other means; but will often send forty or fifty miles for a Homœopathist. My dear friend, you have laid the foundation for my health, happiness, and usefulness to community. O! how many sufferers have been relieved at my hands, after all other means had failed!! My prayer is, that God may still prosper me among the afflicted.”

#### PROVING OF MEDICINES.

We hope the plan of this Institute, for the trial of drugs, will be fully carried out in every city, town, or place, where two or three physicians may co-operate for this purpose. We are expecting to hear of the formation of societies, in all the large towns. The New-York society have organized a Bureau which has already entered upon its duties. The advancement of Therapeutics is dependant upon an increased knowledge of the active effects of drugs. Every physician ought to feel deeply interested in knowing and establishing the precise pathogenesis of drugs—not only of those already extensively used, but of remedies that have not been tried at all, and that are indigenous and more or less useful in popular practice. By this means he will comprehend clearly, and have impressed fully upon his mind the truth and importance of the principle of the curative powers of drugs; will contribute to the improvement of the *materia medica*; and be possessed of evidence of the most conclusive and irrefragible character wherewith to combat the assertions of those who oppose what they don't understand, and are too indolent or too wise to examine what they oppose.

No physician is competent to administer drugs to the sick, unless he be familiar with their more minute, secondary, and permanent effects. He is employing tools of whose use

he knows nothing—giving poisons of whose specific influence he is entirely ignorant.—Considering the fact that the drugs he may be constantly administering to the sick, have an action upon the human system of which he knows nothing, the physician must shrink from such responsibility, chagrined at the vanity of his own pretences; mortified that his researches had never gone beyond the books,—the ideas of other minds, and the dogmas of the schools; despondent that he has allowed the noblest gift of God to man, to remain dormant in his brain, instead of rousing it to action, with an impulse characteristic and irresistible, and of giving to his faculties and efforts, a direction towards improvement and perfection. It would seem that the most remote hint of the propriety of determining the true pathogenesis of drugs by trials upon the healthy, would have excited, at once, the curiosity, and induced the investigation of the physician.

The effects of drugs upon the sick can never be relied upon—they must necessarily be modified by the disease.

The admixture of drugs will never again be practised by the intelligent physician, who allows himself but once to question its propriety. It is repugnant to common sense, true philosophy, and all science.

We commend the article of Dr. Drysdale of Liverpool, (on this subject) to the perusal of those who wish to engage in these trials.

### NATURE'S LAW OF CURE.

That Nature has a Law of Cure may be known from a careful observation of *facts*, in cases of disease which (although differing in their species yet,) bear a strong resemblance in their developments and effects. And the positive and indisputable evidence that, that law is "*Similia, Similibus, Curantur*," is derived from diseases which arise from some permanent miasm, and constantly preserve their identity.

In proof of this, Hahnemann (in his *Organon*) has recorded several cases arising from such miasm. "The foremost of these (he remarks) is small pox, so famous for the violence and number of its symptoms, and which has cured a multitude of diseases that were characterized by symptoms similar to its own."

"Violent ophthalmia, extending even to the loss of sight, is one of the most ordinary occurrences of small-pox; whereas Dezoteaux

and Leroy, have each recorded cases of chronic ophthalmia which were cured in a perfect and permanent manner by *inoculation*."

"A case of blindness of two years standing, brought on by the metastasis of tinea, was according to Kline, perfectly cured by small-pox."

"Dysentery is one of the bad symptoms which occurs in small-pox—for the reason it cures the former disease Homœopathically, as in the case reported by F. Wendt."

"Vaccination, whose special symptom is a swelling of the arm, cured, after its irruption, the *tumefaction* of an arm that was half paralysed."

The vaccine fever, which takes place at the period of the formation of the red areola, has, according to Hardege, cured two cases of intermittent fever Homœopathically; which confirms the remark made by J. Hunter, that two fevers (or diseases that are similar) can never exist together in the body."

In farther proof of this law, I will adduce the following case, under the class *vitia* and order *pustulae* of Cullen that came to my care in the Autumn of 1844. A boy about four years old, of florid complexion, was literally covered with pustules: the pus was of the color and consistence of that usually found in the genuine vaccine pustule. I advised vaccination as the most appropriate remedy, and accordingly vaccinated him in the left arm, and as the vaccine pustule came to maturity it could not be distinguished from the others—they mutually desquamated and the child was in a few weeks restored to perfect health.

I was not a little pleased while perusing the life of Wm. Cowper, in noticing the following item in reference to this "eternal and irrevocable law of nature." He says, "all my life have I been subject to inflammation of the eyes, and in my boyish days had specks on both, that threatened to cover them. My father, alarmed for the consequences, sent me to a female oculist of great renown. at that time, in whose house I abode two years, but to no good purpose. From her I went to Westminster school, where, at the age of fourteen, the *small-pox* seized me and proved the better oculist of the two, for it delivered me from them all."

THEOD. PERCI. ROYSTON.

We are pleased to notice the return from Europe of Dr. Hering, who is now in this city.



There are physicians who openly and professionally oppose Homœopathy, and yet *privately* use Homœopathic remedies. There are others who prepare drugs, in a manner to *resemble* our preparations; but it is not done by the honorable and high-minded; nor by those who can by such means secure the confidence and respect of the community, or their own self-respect.

But some go so far as to assure their patients that the drugs thus prepared, are Homœopathic remedies,—that our school use large doses in *disguise*. This is a gross libel, such as, in business matters, if made personal, would expose its author to the most summary retribution.

It is evidence of a great mind to acknowledge truth. Truth to the physician, of all men, should be a paramount consideration.

Simplicity is alike characteristic of nature's laws, and of those who seek to know and to be guided by them.

Prejudice and assumption are evidence of ignorance, error, and pride.

#### HOMŒOPATHY IN OHIO.

Dr. Williams, of Cleveland, in a letter to a friend in this city, writes.—

.... "A Society is already formed here, and numbers some twenty members. The organization is new, and engages comparatively but little spirit and interest, from the fact, that no one is familiar with the best means of conducting its operations—very much as it was with us in our primary meetings in Western New-York. I shall, however, do what little I can to assist them in their organization and efforts for the development, illustration, and defence of Homœopathy, from the experience I have had. We have good material for the work, and hope our society may prove useful to us, and to the cause.

Homœopathy remains yet to be defended in this city. The pet school of Allopathy on the reserve, at this place, will exercise a strong influence against it, on the ground, that their school adds to the prosperity of the place; but we shall compel them to face the truth.

Our Society meets again on the —, and we should be happy to receive suggestions from you relating to its organization, and best means of advancing our beloved art."

We will thank our friends in the country to give us the names of Homœopathic physicians in their neighborhood.

#### PROVING OF MEDICINES ON THE HEALTHY BODY,

BY DR. DRYSDALE, Liverpool.

The proving of medicines, *i. e.* the practice of ascertaining the action of medicines by experiment on the healthy body, may be justly considered as having originated with Hahnemann; for, although Haller had previously recommended it, on the obvious principle, that it is desirable to be acquainted with the properties of the medicines we employ, and Alexander had even made a few isolated and imperfect experiments on his own person, there was still wanting a definite therapeutic principle to give the practice such value in the estimation of medical men in general, as would induce them to act on Haller's recommendation.—This connecting link was afforded by Hahnemann's discovery of the law *similia similibus*.

The proving of medicines, therefore, was the first offspring of Hahnemann's discovery, and a necessary preliminary to the construction of a therapeutic system. For the same reason, unless it be continually carried on, Homœopathy must remain stationary; in other words, an increasing knowledge of the specific action of medicine is a necessary condition of the advancement of therapeutics.

Hahnemann himself set a noble example in this respect to his medical brethren, for, not satisfied with pointing out the path to be pursued, he led the way, by instituting a series of experiments on his own person and many of his friends, with the view of ascertaining, on incontrovertible grounds, the physiological action of the different articles of the *materia medica*. These experiments, continued during upwards of thirty years, are still the most satisfactory on record, and must ever remain a splendid monument of the untiring zeal and powers of patient investigation which distinguished the founder of the Homœopathic method. It is the duty of all medical men to contribute their share to this important work; and in doing so, it must not be forgotten, that a more direct advantage will accrue to them from the personal knowledge they will thereby acquire of the minuter shades of the specific action of medicinal substances. We propose, therefore, in the present paper, to make some remarks on the proper mode of conducting investigations of this kind, pointing out the principal circumstances which must be attended to and the cautions to be observed, in order that results arrived at may be worthy of such confidence as to entitle them to be applied to prac-



tice. We are led to do so, in the hope that our remarks may be serviceable to those who feel inclined to advance the cause of Homœopathy, by extending our knowledge of the pathogenetic effects of medicines.

*Age and Sex.*—In investigating the action of medicinal substances on the body, allowance must be made for the modifying effect of all those circumstances which influence the action of other morbid causes, for it is in this light that medicines are truly to be regarded. Among these modifying circumstances may be first mentioned age and sex. The medicine must be tried on individuals of all ages and both sexes, for obvious reasons; but, besides the difference arising from the distinct nature of the sexual organs, it is found that some medicines suit one sex better than the other, even in complaints which are common to both, *e. g.* crocus and platina are particularly adapted for the female sex, and nux vomica for the male. The same remark has been made with respect to children and aged individuals, in complaints not connected with the sexual functions.

*Temperament.*—Individuals of different temperaments also should be chosen as subjects of experiment, and all differences in the character and intensity of the symptoms observed in each temperament should be carefully noted, for it has been found that certain medicines are particularly adapted to certain temperaments, *e. g.*, nux vomica, bryonia, nitric acid, &c., to the nervous-bilious temperaments, pulsilla to the lymphatic, and so forth. The influence of habit of body is also not to be overlooked.

*Idiosyncrasy.*—An important modifying influence is idiosyncrasy. Idiosyncrasy may be of two kinds, *i. e.* it may give rise to an action differing altogether in its nature, or differing only in degree from the normal action of the substance. The effect of a substance administered to a particular individual may be altogether peculiar, as in those rare cases where odors usually disgusting produce a pleasant impression on the olfactory nerves, or where simply nutritious articles give rise to anomalous affections, or where particular medicines produce an action altogether foreign to their usual symptoms. From such peculiarities as these, no useful instruction can be gained. But, in the majority of instances, idiosyncrasy is nothing more than an increased susceptibility to the normal action of the medicine, as, for example, when the dust of ipecacuanha pro-

duces asthma, or a fraction of a grain of mercury produces salivation. These are merely the normal effects of the substances in question; and their inertness in similar doses in most cases is, as well remarked by Hahnemann, only apparent, for they do act more or less on all individuals in the same manner, but the susceptibility is only developed in a few in health, to such an extent as to make it perceptible. In disease, however, they act in all cases when Homœopathically indicated; and a diseased state of the system may thus be looked upon as equivalent to an idiosyncrasy in relation to the Homœopathic remedy. But the progress of chemistry has furnished us with further confirmation of this opinion. The excessive itching of the body which has been observed in some rare cases to follow the exhibition of opium, was generally looked upon as the effect of an idiosyncrasy or peculiarity in the individual, and not to be accounted for by any thing in the medicine itself; but, since chemical analysis has shown the composite nature of opium, it has been found that one of its constituents, *viz.* codeine, produces in almost all individuals, when given in sufficient dose, a species of febrile nettle-rash, attended with excessive itching over the whole body. The itching occasionally observed to follow the exhibition of opium may, consequently be considered to have been nothing more than the effect of an unusual susceptibility to the normal action of codeine. Idiosyncrasy, is therefore often a valuable adjuvant in the proving of medicines, as it gives a peculiarly distinct, and, as it were, exaggerated, picture of the specific action of the substance.

*The provings must be often repeated.*—Independently of the reasons already given for multiplying the experiments, it is desirable, for another reason, to repeat the provings on a large number of individuals, for, as slight variations in the different functions are experienced by every one, even when in the best health, it is only from their repeated occurrence that we are justified in ascribing many of the common symptoms, to the effect of the medicine.\* In order, therefore, to avoid the admis-

\* Widuman, when in the best of health, noted down for some time all his sensations, and was astonished at the number and variety which he experienced; and if he had been proving any medicine at the time, these symptoms might have been put down as the effects of the medicine, had the precautions above mentioned not been attended to.—*Hufeland's Journal*, Nov., 1823.



sion of accidental symptoms, none should be adopted, unless they have been found to present themselves in several of the provers. By comparing also one proving with another, and ascertaining the degree of constancy with which the different symptoms have appeared, we may discover those most characteristic of the action of the medicine. It is to be remembered also, that all individuals are not susceptible of all the effects which a medicine is capable of producing, one action appearing in one individual, and another in a second, and so on, and thus a large number of experiments is required before we can obtain a complete view of the action of a medicine, just as a correct idea of the character of an epidemic can only be obtained by the comparison of a large number of cases.

To be continued.

#### ERRATUM.

No. 5, page 48, line 23. Instead of "by no means of facts," read, *by means of facts*.

The names of John Taylor, M. D., of this city, and D. C. Williams, M. D., of Cleveland, Ohio—formerly of Geneva, N. Y. should have appeared in the list of members of the American Institute of Homœopathy.

Mr. M. Erthiler (the German teacher) proposes to form a class of physicians, who would like to acquire a knowledge of the German language.

Mr. Erthiler will meet such physicians as may wish to engage in the study at the N. Y. Homœopathic Dispensary on Monday next, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets, Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epps' Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, etc. etc.

Will physicians, especially those in the country, who desire the advancement and spread of Homœopathy, furnish us with statistics of cure in well marked cases of disease, and statements of the results of their present practice, compared with those obtained by them in allopathic practice, in analogous cases?

#### CHEAP CASE PRINTING, (Tobitt's Office, 9 Spruce.)

The above Establishment being conducted upon entirely different principles from many others, furnishes the public with good opportunity of having work done on correct principles—without requiring exorbitant profits to feed hungry and numerous mortgages, &c. A steady business—small profits—and cash customers—are the peculiarities the Proprietor intends distinguishing HIS Office—and orders will continue to be attended to with the usual punctuality.

HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY, BROADWAY, corner of Lispenard street, (entrance No. 74 Lispenard street.) Open daily, [Sunday excepted,] from 3 to 4.

Physicians in attendance, Mondays and Thursdays, Drs. Kirby and Barlow; Tuesdays and Fridays, Drs. Cook and Snow; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Drs. Quin and Bowers.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I.

New-York, Saturday, July 18, 1846.

NO. 7.

DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

**J. H. Tobitt, Printer,**

*No. 9 Spruce-street, New-York.*

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 592 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway; and at Van Beuren's, 223 Bleecker street.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 Broadway.

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## THE SPIRIT OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC DOCTRINE.

BY SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

Translated by Geddes M. Scott, M. D., of  
Glasgow, Scotland.

"From seeing evil still educing good."

Continued.

Diseases being nothing else than dynamic alterations in the state of our organism and of our vital character, it is not possible for man

to annihilate them otherwise than by means of properties and powers equally capable of dynamically modifying the state of the human organism. In other terms, medicines cure diseases in a specific (virtuelle) and dynamic manner.

Those active substances and those powers which are at our disposal, (viz. medicines,) effect the cure of diseases by the same dynamic property of modifying the actual state and vital character of our organism in its manner of feeling and acting, as that in virtue of which they also affect man in health, modify him dynamically, and excite in him certain morbid symptoms, the knowledge of which, as we shall see hereafter, affords us the most definite ideas concerning the diseased states for which each of these medicines is the appropriate remedy. *There is, then, nothing in the world which can accomplish a cure, no substance or power which can be fitted to produce in the human organism a change of such a nature as to expel disease from it, if it be not an agent capable of deranging the state of man in general, (dynamically,) and in consequence also of morbidly mortifying the state of the healthy subject.*

But, on the other hand, there is no agent or power in nature capable of morbidly affecting man in health, which does not at the same time possess the power of curing certain morbid states. Now, since the power of curing a disease, and that of producing a morbid affection in persons in health, are inseparable from each other, in all medicines, and that these two powers proceed manifestly from one and the same source, that is to say, from the property which medicines have of modifying dynamically the state of man, and that consequently, also, these cannot act on the deceased after any other inherent natural law than that which presides over their action on individuals in health, it follows from this that the power



of the medicine which cures the disease in the sick is the same which causes it to excite morbid symptoms in the healthy.

We shall find, then, also, that the curative power of medicines, or that which can be effected by each of them in diseases, is never more clearly expressed, and can never be conveyed to the mind in a more simple and adequate manner than by the phenomena and morbid symptoms (kinds of artificial maladies) to which these substances give rise in man in health; for as soon as we have under our eyes the table of the particular morbid symptoms produced in a healthy man by different medicinal substances, it only remains for us to have recourse to pure experiments, which alone are capable of determining what are the medicinal symptoms (or the symptoms produced by the medicine in the healthy subject) which always arrest and cure certain morbid symptoms (i. e. diseases) in a rapid and durable manner, in order to know beforehand which of those medicines, the particular symptoms of which have been studied, is the surest method of cure in each given case of disease.

If we then consult experience, that we may learn from it what are the artificial morbid elements (or those observed in consequence of the action of medicines) on the help of which we may count in certain natural morbid states; if we ask of it whether the method of restoring health, in the most certain and durable manner, consists in employing medicines which are fitted to produce in a healthy man a diseased state *different* from that which we could cure, or those which produce in a healthy man a state *opposed* to that which exists in the case we propose to cure; or, lastly, those which excite in healthy subjects a state *analogous* to the natural malady which we have before our eyes, (for these three are the only possible methods of modifying the organism,) the reply to such a question is not doubtful.

Now it is self-evident that medicines which act in a *different manner*, (allopathically,)—which have a tendency to produce in a healthy man symptoms not identical with those of the malady of which we attempt the cure,—cannot, by the nature of things, be suitable and salutary, and that they must act in a manner in some sort indirect, otherwise each malady might be cured promptly, certainly and durably, by the first medicine that should come to hand. But as each medicine possesses a mode of action different from that of others,

as each malady determines, by the eternal laws of nature, a derangement of the organism different from that which is occasioned by others, this proposition implies a contradiction, which is sufficient to demonstrate the impossibility of a good result in a like case; it being impossible to offer any change whatever except by an appropriate cause, and not *per quamlibet causam*. Thus, experience proves every day that the ordinary practice, with its incongruous mixtures of unknown medicines, produces undoubtedly all sorts of effects, of which a cure is the least frequent.

The second manner of healing diseases by medicines consists in employing substances which act in a *contrary* manner (enantioopathically or antipathically) to the existing morbid state. It is not difficult, in this case either, to conceive that such a method can never effect a durable cure, because the disease will not fail speedily to re-appear, and in a more powerful degree than formerly. For observe what happens in such a case. According to an admirable arrangement of the creation, living organized beings do not by any means obey the laws of inorganized nature: they do not receive as the latter the impression of external things in a manner purely passive: they do not yield as inorganic nature to the influences from without, but tend to establish the contrary of the action to which they are subjected.

The living human body, indeed, experiences in the first moments, some change in consequence of the action which physical forces exercise upon it; but this change is not durable as it is in inorganic beings, and as it must be in order that a medicinal power acting inversely to the malady should produce a permanent effect, a durable cure. Very far from that, the living human organism tends to determine, by opposition, the precise contrary of the affection which it has received from without.

Thus the hand which has been held for some time plunged in ice-cold water no longer remains cold after having been withdrawn from it, nor confines itself to resuming the temperature of the surrounding air, as would happen to a ball of stone: it no longer preserves the heat of the rest of the body; but the colder the water is, the longer does it act upon the sound skin of the hand, and the more is this inflamed, and the warmer does it become after having been withdrawn.

It cannot, then, fail to happen that a medicine acting in a manner opposed to the symp-

toms of the malady should ameliorate for only a very short time, the existing morbid symptom, and should speedily be obliged to yield to the power of re action which predominates in living bodies, and which excites the contrary state, that is to say, one opposed to the fallacious amelioration produced by the palliative, and similar to the original malady. But this state is a real addition made to the first disease, which has not been cured; it is, consequently this disease in a higher degree. The evil certainly continues thus always to increase after the palliative, or the medicine acting in a contrary and enantiopathic manner, has exhausted its action.

To be continued.

### SELECTION OF REMEDIES.

It is a rule from which no true physician should depart, *that each case of sickness must indicate the remedy which is adapted to its own cure.* A strict adherence to the rule will require a minute investigation of the phenomena of every case of sickness, which the physician may be called upon to treat. He cannot discharge his duty if he merely takes into consideration a few, or even all, of the more prominent sufferings of the sick; it is essential that he note all he can of his own observation, then allow the patient, in his own way and without interruption, to relate his sufferings; let him take his own time to do it;—never hurry him, for it often happens that his moral condition will appear by the manner he exhibits in describing his diseased state to his physician; which, in a majority of cases, is of more importance to know than any thing else: and finally; make strict inquiries of his friends or those who are in waiting upon him, and patiently listen to all they have to say. By this method, and a proper arrangement upon paper of what the physician sees and hears, a true image of the disease will be obtained. After which, a patient study of the *materia medica* will furnish a similar image or disease from among the pathogenetic effects of some drug; and this is the Homœopathic remedy. And when it is thus selected, and administered in a small attenuated dose, the effect in many if not in most cases, will be instantaneous, in acute ones especially; and even in incurable cases, there will be a striking modification of the sufferings, so much so, that the patient himself and his friends may entertain hopes of recovery, and doubt the prognosis of the physician.

What we here state we do know, for it has been a high gratification to us, to have witnessed the effects of drugs, as above related, in hundreds of cases. And every true physician of our school can testify to the same results in his own experience.

This brief statement is enough to show what precision is necessary to obtain satisfactory results in the practice of Homœopathy. There must be a close observance of the rule at the head of this article, or, in our efforts to find a reason for a practice which has no solid foundation to satisfy the sick and their friends, and also to allay the unpleasant movements of conscience, we should be lost in the fogs of speculation and theory.

There are some popular errors on the subject of this article, which it is desirable to correct; and we willingly contribute our aid in accomplishing this object.

The following or similar questions, which have been frequently asked, show a want of proper information of the Homœopathic practice. What is the remedy for scarlet fever? What for measles? Which is the remedy for inflammation? Which is to be used in constipation? &c., &c. No one well instructed in the doctrines of our school would ask such questions, unless in reference to an epidemic, in which a single drug had been found to be more useful; as for instance, in 1843, the influenza prevailed as an epidemic in this city, and most of the cases yielded promptly to *Stibium*, although there were exceptions. During the year 1845 and down to this period, most of the cases of influenza we have treated, yielded to *Nux vomica*, 30th potency; which facts illustrate the above rule.

It is now agreed on all sides, that it is wrong to prescribe for a disease by its name, and especially is this so in our school. Unfortunate results have followed attempts to cure diseases by having an eye mainly to the names by which they have been called, either with or without reason. This is the real practice of the old school, however much it may be denied; for the evidence to sustain this assertion may be found in any medical journal of that school; also in almost every allopathic work on the practice of medicine, and in the every day practice of allopathic physicians generally.

The particular errors into which some have fallen are, a belief that Homœopathy has a remedy for each disease by its name, as the above questions show. For example *Bella-*



*donna* is Homœopathically indicated in many cases of scarlet fever, therefore some persons infer that it is specific for all cases of that disease, and that it is the only remedy; which is far, very far, from the truth. We have known death to occur of this disease, after the use of this drug, and Homœopathy was blamed for the mischief; when the fact was, she had had nothing to do with it. Very lately, however, our allopathic brethren have found out, that our school finds *carbonate of ammonia* occasionally indicated in scarlet fever, consequently this drug has become with them almost as fashionable in this disease, as is *hydriodate of potash* in every thing.

Again: It is said, that *aconite* is the remedy for inflammations, and yet every true physician knows that it is not appropriate to every case of this affection, for it often fails to cure conditions usually expressed by that term.

*Pulsatilla*, *Nux vomica*, *Arsenicum*, *Cantharides*, *Chamomilla*, *Rhus toxicoden*, *Bryonia*, *Phosphorous*, *Belladonna*, and others, cure inflammatory conditions as often as *aconitum*; and the indications for each, are not at all doubtful to those who may be familiar with the *materia medica*, and have skill in diagnosis.

Again: It is said that *Pulsatilla* is the Homœopathic remedy of *measles*, and yet, *Aconite*, *Chamomilla*, *Sulphur*, and *Bryonia*, are as often indicated as it, and probably most of these and others may be required in the same case.

And so, also, of whooping cough and other diseases do the same errors exist.

If our art is to improve and accomplish all of which it is capable, physicians must study each case of disease by itself; every thing should be noted down and the *totality* of the symptoms be made to select the remedy.

If this is neglected, then we become only routinists—mere copyists. The genuine Homœopathic practice places the responsibility of every case of disease fully upon the physician. On his knowledge—on his judgment—and on his care, will success depend, under the blessing of God.

### A REPORT,

“Containing a synoptical view of the principles of Homœopathy contrasted with those of medicine.”

A pamphlet of 71 pages, with the above title, has been published lately at Syracuse, N. Y.

It purports to be the report of a committee

appointed by the Onondaga County Medical Society, to investigate the subject of Homœopathy. But, from some unexplained cause the chairman wrote the report, and published it without consulting the other members of the committee or the society. He did so, he says, “in anticipation of the society’s vote to print.” We take leave to congratulate his associates, Drs. W. Taylor, E. T. Richardson, W. Laughlin, W. A. Grover, and H. McKinley, on their escape from any responsibility in such a production.

We have become quite tired of works of this sort; nothing is accomplished by them, except the gratification of the vanity of their authors, which is very well developed from the first to the last page of this so-called report.

He commences with a *fling* at Hahnemann as a man and a scholar, and this, on the authority of a Dr. Leo Wolf, who, in 1834, caused to be published a silly book, which was quite characteristic of the author. We remember the Doctor and his book very well. It came from the press at the time we were engaged in investigating Homœopathy, in the only legitimate mode, ~~by~~ trying it. The reading of that book urged us to a greater industry and care in the pursuit of a knowledge of that system of the healing art.

Dr. Leo Wolf’s book never had any weight, not even with the enemies of our school. It was strongly suspected at the time, that the author had some personal motive in writing what he did of Hahnemann; so utterly destitute of any foundation in fact. But the author of the Syracuse report reminds us of a sentiment we read a long time ago, that when a lie gets into the world, how hard it is to get it out of the world. For years, we have not heard Dr. L’s. book mentioned by friend or foe until now;—it has slept quietly somewhere—perhaps the publisher of it could tell.

This report under consideration is wordy—very wordy, and is evidently the production of a light and an eccentric mind. There is nothing profound in it; and it betrays most clearly a want of knowledge on the part of the author of the subject of which he professes to treat. We do desire that whoever hereafter writes against Homœopathy, will first inform himself on the subject; and, to help all such persons, we hereby tell them, that Homœopathy stands on two legs, as we believe; and if it can be proved that it does not thus stand, then it is nothing.

We will at this time take occasion to say,

that words, and only words, can never disprove Homœopathy. Any thing, other than the very experiments that Hahnemann himself practiced cannot prove it true or false. We say to all who feel an interest in the subject, do as he did; be careful, and publish the results. There cannot be, in the very nature of it, any other mode of fairly and truly investigating Homœopathy. Let her enemies say what they please, write what they please, publish what they please. Let them ridicule, misrepresent Hahnemann, and call his disciples low-bred, uneducated, and a half-starved set of fellows, who only embraced Homœopathy to get a morsel of bread; it will amount to nothing. We shall always meet them by asking: *Have you tried it?* and if the answer is No, there is an end of the discussion.

Some say, it is too absurd to try. Then cease to write about it.

Will reasoning alone convince any one that drugs will produce specific effects upon the human system? Certainly not. But experiment will.

Homœopathy is a fact, to reason against which betrays absurdity of the most positive character.

It is strange that the developements of new facts in science in such constant and quick succession, which startle mankind with their originality and apparent improbabilities, and excite from their newness and seeming opposition to common sense, incredulity or downright denial; but which, as constantly stand the test of rigid experiment; should not teach them to suspend judgment until they have subjected to the proper test any new principle in science; especially if the new principle be defended by numerous, intelligent, scientific, and candid men.

If it be a fact in science, it must be capable of demonstration.

To judge of such facts from any seeming improbabilities, is evidence of a want of true philosophy, if not liberality and candor, which always distinguishes honest seekers after truth.

To reason against a fact is downright absurdity and unmitigated folly.

Homœopathy pretends to be based upon facts; these facts are attested by numerous, capable, and candid advocates. The facts are susceptible of demonstration; if true, they equal, at least, in importance any that have ever been discovered. If not true, the whole system that has been established upon them is

without foundation. These facts have been constantly and clearly stated. They are familiar to the medical profession, and to so much of the public as take an interest in them. They have never been tested and disproved by those who oppose them. By thousands who have done so they are admitted.

To what can the opposition of the former be attributed? Not to the want of evidence, surely; for that they refuse to examine. Not to the amount of it; for it is overwhelming. Not to the respectability of it; for it comes from their own compeers and associates. Not to its want of age; for it is as old as creation itself. Not to its recent discovery; a man might as well go to battle with a sling because fire-arms were not used 2000 years ago—ascend the North River in a sloop because steam-boats were unknown centuries ago—write a book on parchment—start a horse express in opposition to the magnetic telegraph. Hippocrates is a time-honored worthy.

## PROVING OF MEDICINES ON THE HEALTHY BODY,

BY DR. DRYSDALE, Liverpool.

—  
Concluded.

*Form and preparation.*—The medicines should be used in the form that is most easily reproduced, as it is essential that a preparation precisely similar to that proved should be always employed. Such specimens should therefore only be chosen as are well characterized, and of known genuineness and purity. The simplest form of administration should be adopted: of fresh plants the expressed juice mixed with a little spirit of wine may be given; of dried plants a tincture, powder or infusion fresh prepared. Salts should be dissolved and gum resins mixed in a large quantity of water just before taking them. Insoluble substances triturated for a length of time with 5, 10, 50, or 100 parts of milk sugar.

*Dose.*—As a general rule, we must begin with a small dose, and increase it gradually till distinct symptoms make their appearance. To obtain a complete knowledge of the action of a medicine, it is necessary to give it both in large and in small doses, but the latter are by far the best adapted to develop its specific effects, for very many medicines are evacuates in large doses, and produce their own expulsion, thus preventing their specific action from being fully developed; for example, if mercur-



ry were always given in purgative doses, we should learn very little of its other infinitely more characteristic effects. Large doses of some substances produce also a certain amount of chemical action which either overpowers, or, at least prevents us from observing distinctly their proper specific dynamic action. The most useful doses are, therefore, those which are just sufficient to produce distinct symptoms; such doses are also the best, as they produce chiefly primary symptoms; while large doses cause many secondary symptoms, and act so rapidly that the observer is confused. The dose may be repeated once or many times daily, and for many days in succession; but in that case it is often difficult to separate the primary for the secondary symptoms, and also the course of the symptoms cannot be so accurately observed. It is therefore often useful to give a single pretty large dose, and watch its effects. This plan is chiefly useful with some vegetable medicines whose sphere of action is small, and of which the first dose sometimes exhausts, for a time the susceptibility of the system to the action of the substance.

*Diet.*—The diet and regimen of the prover must be regulated with great care. Moderation in every thing, and abstinence from every thing tending to exercise any medicinal or distracting influence, are necessary. All fermented and spirituous liquors, coffee and spices of every description, all green vegetables and roots, with the exception of green peas, kidney beans, carrots, turnips, cauliflower, and potatoes, and even any of these, should it disagree in the most trifling manner with the stomach, must be avoided during the proving. Also all over-exertion of the mind or body, deep study, strong mental emotion, and violent passion unfit the individual for these experiments.

*Directions for Individual Provers.*—Each one must write down his name and age, and description of his person, indicating the temperament, complexion, color of the hair and eyes, stature and habit of body, &c. Anonymous observations should be rejected, except in the case of females and non-intelligent provers; but, in these instances, the person under whose direction the experiments are conducted is to be held responsible for their accuracy. These precautions may seem unnecessary, but unfortunately they are not so; for, incredible as it may appear, individuals have been actually found base enough to sport with the lives of

their fellow-creatures, by the publication of false provings for the sake of gain.\*

*Observe himself before beginning.*—The prover should choose a period when he is in the best health, and regulate his diet according to the above directions, at the same time avoiding all causes of unusual mental and bodily excitement. As every one, however, is liable even in the best state of health, to slight variations in the sensations and functions, each prover should observe himself accurately for a week or ten days before commencing his experiments, and should write down all his sensations just as if he were taking the medicine. Having thus discovered what symptoms he is liable to naturally, he must afterwards carefully avoid setting them down among the effects of the medicine. Most persons have also some weak point in their constitution, which is liable to suffer from any cause that in any way deranges the general health, whether that cause act specifically or not on the organ in question. The prover must, of course, avoid enumerating these symptoms also among the effects of the medicine. Should there occur, in the course of the proving, such a deviation from the diet or regimen, as would throw doubt on the results, the subsequent symptoms must be included within brackets; and if any interruption of greater moment should arise, the proving is to be altogether suspended for a time.

Having duly attended to all these preliminary precautions, the prover should begin to take the medicine whose action he wishes to investigate, in any of the doses already mentioned, and when symptoms begin to show themselves distinctly, he should describe them as accurately as possible, observing the following cautions:—

*Primary and Secondary Symptoms.*—One of the most important things to be kept in view is the distinction of symptoms into primary and secondary; for it is familiar to all that any unusual action or excitement of any part is invariably followed by a corresponding degree of

\* A miscreant called Fickel published under feigned names, (Heyne and Hofbauer,) two books of fictitious provings. From their internal evidence alone, Drs. Trinks and Helbig of Dresden showed that these were false, and that both publications were the work of the same individual. They were, at length, traced to Fickel, who was at the same time, detected in other knavish practices, and was forced to fly from Leipzig to avoid imprisonment.

quite the opposite state, and therefore it is the primary symptoms alone that are valuable as showing the specific action of the substance; the secondary being merely the result of the previously excited action of the organism. For example, if a medicine, by its immediate and direct operation, excite purging, this is necessarily followed by a state of constipation for a longer or a shorter period, as a mere consequence of the exhaustion which follows the primarily excited action, and the constipation is therefore not, in any way, a characteristic effect of the substance which caused the purging.

The secondary action should, therefore, either not be written down at all, or if written, (which it sometimes may be, as it may contain something expressive of the precise character of the primary symptom,) it should only be placed after the primary, and *never as an independent symptom*. In the proving of Chamomilla, for instance, constipation is mentioned several times, but Hahnemann\* expressly states, that, on all these occasions, it is merely the secondary effect of previous diarrhœa, and, accordingly, it is never found useful in constipation, but is specific in several forms of diarrhœa. This is a point of the greatest importance, for if not attended to, we cannot distinguish between the Homœopathic and anti-pathic action of the medicine, and are, therefore, in danger of falling back into the old routine of practice. It is a point, also, which only the prover himself can rightly distinguish; for we find the exhibition of the medicine followed by two opposite classes of symptoms, the one being the true specific action of the medicine, while the other is of no value at all. If these are then all simply written down, a confusion arises which no one afterwards can unravel, and the proving is consequently rendered worse than useless.

*Alternative symptoms.*—It is found that some medicines produce, at different times, symptoms which are quite opposite in their character, both of which, however, are truly primary, not being the secondary results of any previous excitement. These can easily be distinguished by the prover, who must carefully avoid confounding them with the real secondary symptoms.

*Course of Symptoms.*—It is to be remembered that the object of proving is to ascertain, not so

much the mere symptoms which follow the administration of a medicine, as the pathological state on which they depend; and, therefore, it is not sufficient to note down the symptoms in a detached and isolated form, but their course and connection must also be carefully observed and accurately described. Instances will, no doubt, occur to the reader, in which the course of the symptoms furnishes one of the best means of diagnosis between different morbid affections of similar character.

*Connection of Symptoms.*—Attention to the connection of the symptoms is still more important, as leading more directly to a knowledge of the precise seat and nature of the pathological change. For example, pain in the lumbar region, as an isolated symptom, is of little diagnostic value; if it occur, however, in connection with vomiting, it would lead us to suspect the presence of some affection of the kidney, yet without enabling us to determine the precise nature of the affection; but if to these two symptoms be superadded general fever and ischuria, then the diagnosis of nephritis becomes complete.

*Isolated Symptoms.*—But the fact must not be lost sight of, that individual symptoms will frequently arise in the course of the provings; and as these symptoms are often of great value, as indicating the therapeutic powers of the substance, they must be carefully registered.

*Description of Symptoms.*—In describing the symptoms, the greatest minuteness and accuracy must be observed; the character of the sensation should be indicated as accurately as possible, which is often best done by some familiar comparison, then should be stated how the symptom is affected by different circumstances, such as position of the body, motion, or rest, eating or fasting, day or night, in a room or in the open air, state of the weather, &c., and, in short, no circumstance, however trifling, must be omitted, which may in any way tend to indicate the characteristic action of the medicine.

A few special examples may probably be the best way to illustrate the minuteness with which it is necessary to examine and describe the symptoms.

*Head.*—To put down simply head-ache as a symptom of a medicine, would give little information as to its specific action, as that is one of so general occurrence. The pain must be described as accurately as possible, and this often can be best done by a comparison with some familiar sensation. It must be stated,

\* Reine Arzneimittellehre, bd. 3. Art. Chamille. Sympt. 180-183.



for instance, if it is shooting, tearing, throbbing, &c., or creeping, buzzing, vibrating, &c., or if pressure, whether from within or without, or downwards; or if it is like a cord round the head, or a sensation of weight or lightness, fulness or emptiness, heat or cold, &c. Also state accurately the part of the head affected; or, if it varies, state the course and direction of the pains. At the same time state any symptoms that accompany the head-ache: this is of great importance, as the accessory symptoms are often the best means of distinguishing the character of the affection: among these are usually affections of the eyes, nausea, variation of the countenance, shivering, or heat, &c. In short, any sympathetic symptom, however trifling, that may tend to mark the character of the primary affection, should be noted. The state of the mind that attends each variety of head-ache is also to be accurately noted. Also note the circumstances in which the pain is aggravated or ameliorated, such as lying down or walking about, time of day, eating, &c.

As an example, we may take symptom 67 of Hahnemann's proving of *Rhus toxicodendron*. "On awakening from sleep, immediately on opening the eyes he is seized with a violent headache, at first in the forehead behind the eyes, as if the brain were torn, like that after intoxication from brandy, increased by moving the eyes; then in the occiput, like a bruise of the cerebellum."

Or *Nux vomica*, symptom 84. "Head-ache, beginning some hours before dinner, increased after eating; then violent shooting pains in the left temple, with nausea and very acid vomiting, all which symptoms disappeared on lying down in the evening."

Or *Belladonna*, symptom 96. "Pain close above the orbits, with the feeling as if the brain were pressed out, preventing the eyes being opened, and forcing the patient to lie down, with strong contractions of the pupils and feeble voice."

As another example, we may take the urinary organs. Describe the state of the urine according to (a) its physical and chemical characters. Specific gravity, color, consistence, smell, acid or alkaline secretion, whether albuminous, &c.

(b) Any sediment should be described, whether flocculent, crystalline, what color, &c. Also its appearance under the microscope, and chemical analysis, or at least the action of a few of the common re-agents.

(c) Its discharge, whether frequent or seldom, copious or scanty, difficult or painful, &c.

(d) The accompanying symptoms, before the discharge, during and after it. Any pains or diseased symptoms in the urethra, bladder, or other organs connected with the function.

As another illustration we may take cough. Its character should be accurately described, whether deep, tickling, hollow, short, hard, spasmodic, dry, or moist, &c. The expectoration should be minutely described, whether easy or difficult, copious or scanty, mucous, purulent, frothy, bloody, (if pure blood, whether bright or dark,) according to the color, taste, or smell; and it should also be examined by the microscope and a few simple chemical tests. It should also be stated what the cough is more immediately excited by, such as itching, tickling, dryness, oppression, &c., in the larynx, trachea, or chest; also the circumstances that bring on, or aggravate, or ameliorate the cough. And not neglect to mention minutely the sympathetic or accompanying symptoms, which are very often the only means of obtaining a characteristic of the substance; such as, pains (accurately described) in the chest head, or abdomen, dyspnoea, palpitation, nausea, eructation, vomiting, epistaxis, pain in the eyes, ears, &c.

Examples from Hahnemann's *Materia Medica*.—"Dry cough during the night, which goes off on sitting up, but returns on lying down again." *Pulsatilla*, symptoms 617.

"Dry cough, as if coming from the stomach, preceded by a creeping and tickling at the epigastrium." *Bryonia*, symptom 308.

"Tickling cough from irritation at the bifurcation of the bronchiæ, from the first loose, nauseous, sweetish-tasted expectoration, worse in the evening before going to bed; attended with hoarse voice and rawness of the trachea after each cough." *Stannum*, symptom 364.

It is unnecessary to multiply examples, as these may be deemed sufficient: I may therefore say, that the same degree of minuteness is to be extended to the observation of all the organs and functions of the system. The state of the mind and temper are also to be carefully observed and noted.

*Conclusion*.—In conclusion, it must be observed, that, as the object of proving is to obtain as perfect a knowledge as possible of the artificial diseased states produced by the medicinal substance, all the care, skill, and knowledge, that are required for the diagnosis of natural diseases, are required equally for

investigations of this kind. Perhaps these qualities are even more essential in this case, for we have not in the great majority of instances, the aid which pathological anatomy affords. The first step is to give a perfectly faithful account of all the phenomena, quite unbiassed by any theoretical views or speculations on the part of the observer. The strong tendency to theorize existing in the human mind may render this task difficult, but it is absolutely necessary to lay aside any peculiar notions we may entertain, so that our knowledge may be made useful only in directing our attention to all the circumstances which might indicate the exact nature of the affection, carefully abstaining, however from drawing any deduction; for, by this introduction of hypothetical reasoning, we should at once take away the purely positive character of the observation.

The works of Hippocrates contain a description of nearly all the diseases that are at present known, and some of his descriptions are as characteristic as any to be found in the works of modern authors, just because he was content to be a faithful observer of nature.

His *observations* are consequently as fresh and correct as if made yesterday; but when he introduces any pathological views, or attempts to theorize, his remarks bear the stamp of the rudeness and ignorance of his times. In like manner, Hahnemann, who may be regarded as occupying the same position with respect to the pathogenetic effects of medicines, that Hippocrates does with regard to diseases, has contented himself with giving pure observations of facts without ever attempting to theorize upon them, using his physiological and pathological knowledge merely as a guide to what it might be useful to note. His provings consequently contain the germ of all that is now known of the specific effects of medicines, and *they* are as fresh as if made yesterday, being remarkable for containing nothing at all of the theories of the day, most of which, indeed, are since exploded. A purely positive observation is for all time, and possesses the same value after the lapse of centuries as it does at the moment when first made; but any theoretical view, however scientific, or in accordance with the state of knowledge of the day, must of necessity be imperfect, and only of temporary value. The prover should therefore confine himself *entirely* to the observation of facts, and leave it to others to draw deductions; if he does draw deductions

the facts and the reasoning should be kept quite separate and distinct.

### LAWS OF HEALTH,—DISEASE.

The susceptibility of many patients to the influence of certain drugs, is well known and talked about, but generally disregarded in ordinary practice.

Where this susceptibility exists, a powerful dose may occasion death from an excessive irritability it occasions in the system. Cases often terminate suddenly, (unexpectedly) fatally, after the administration of large doses of drugs, as emetics, cathartics, &c. This has repeatedly been observed and acknowledged by the profession, and can be naturally and fully accounted for on Homœopathic principles. Drugs often, when administered empirically, have a specific relation to disease; and when it exists, any one can see the danger of too large a dose. It would almost necessarily produce an intense aggravation of the existing condition, and of course increase the danger of overcoming the vital power: or, owing to the peculiar susceptibility in the case, a drug thus given might divert a deranged action from some comparatively indifferent part and fix it upon a vital organ. This susceptibility is more than a hint at the existence of a law of relation between drugs and disease; and when it is found so often to exist, it would seem unavoidable that the physician should look for it more generally—that he should look for it universally.

When physicians notice this susceptibility, and witness the baneful effects of what they call a small dose, greatly enhancing the sufferings of the patient, and adding new difficulties to the existing condition—the specific effect of the drug employed—it should, it would seem, induce them to attenuate the drug, with the expectation, by such means, of securing its curative influence, and avoiding its poisonous effects.

When one cannot bear the smell of a rose; another the least proximity to a house-plant; a third can detect the poison of an unseen but obnoxious object; a fourth cannot look at, handle, or remain in the same room with a certain drug; it should have, one would suppose, aroused the curiosity of the scientific to discover, if possible, the principle, or law of relation of medicinal substances to disturbed conditions of the system, at least to learn the peculiar and characteristic effects of the more poison-



ous drugs, rather than to have "contented themselves with administering blindly, in disease, remedies of whose real nature they were ignorant, whose pure and dynamic effects upon healthy persons they had never studied, and with mixing several unknown substances whose action is so diversified, and then left it to chance to dispose of whatever might accrue to the patient from this treatment. It is in this manner that a madman, who has just forced his way into the workshop of an artist, seizes with open hands upon all the tools within his reach for the purpose of finishing a work which he finds in a state of preparation. Who can doubt but that he will spoil it, by the ridiculous manner in which he goes to work, or destroy it altogether?"

Disturbing agents, productive of disease, affect the system specifically, and in accordance with fixed principles; and they may be (and often are) of an attenuated character—positively inappreciable to the senses, and not subject to any known chemical test: "the secretions of one child, laboring under the whooping-cough, are sufficient to infect a whole city." It is found by direct proving of drugs, as has been found by the accidental use of them, that they act specifically, and in accordance with fixed principles; and that they are capable of producing disturbance of the vital action, in attenuated doses, inappreciable to the senses. If this be true, the law upon which these phenomena depend, or in accordance with which they are exhibited, should always be made the basis and the rule for their use. The use of drugs, then, empirically or experimentally, is unphilosophical, inexcusable, and hazardous to health and life. Aside from the direct effect of drugs in any given case, their *cumulative* influence is not always to be *determined or controlled*, and the palliative effects are often anticipated by the poisonous, or are immediately followed by them.

But, escaping the immediately irritating, the cumulative and poisonous effects of large doses, the patient rarely escapes their more permanent, pre-disposing influence. As with mercury, so with Quinine and the noble catalogue of popular and heroic remedies. The effect of Cinchona (Quinine) upon the system is as pernicious as that of mercury. It predisposes the system to innumerable difficulties of an obstinate and uncontrollable character—chills and fever, dropsical affections, neuralgic difficulties, rheumatism, nervous head-aches, diseases of the chest, phthisis pulmonalis, &c.

Pending the existence of any of these difficulties, the specific influence of the bark is constant and unyielding; acute attacks, supervening upon these difficulties, are always heightened and aggravated by it. The peculiar symptoms of this poison are constantly apparent, and its influence is permanent—producing suffering and disturbance, complicating the effects of disease, and confusing, or completely destroying its relation to a natural remedy.

It is frequently remarked by physicians, and it comports with our own observation, that it is rare to find a case of *phthisis*, in which the patient has not been, at some former period, drugged with calomel for bilious, or with Quinine for intermitting fever.

The torments of the poor sufferer, from this terrible disease, are multiplied or rendered intense by the unnatural influence of these horrid poisons.

#### CASE OF CURE.

Patient, a gentleman; age, 40; of a bilious temperament.

For three weeks had suffered from loss of appetite; great thirst; debility; emaciation; profuse sweatings; profuse and frequent urination; constipation of the bowels; tenderness of the abdomen [hypogastric region]; cramps in legs and feet at night; sore mouth and gums; dry, deep cough; wheezing respiration; dizziness [vertigo] when walking; depression of spirits.

There was a feeling of hunger, which was immediately dissipated on attempting to eat. Thirst day and night; desire to urinate frequent and urgent by day and night; urine reddish brown or green color, of a sickish, disagreeable smell.

The bowels had not been moved in ten or twelve days. The cough and difficulty of breathing aggravated by talking.

On Sunday [5th inst.] gave 3 pellets *natrum muriaticum*, 400th att.—repeated same on Monday morning. On Monday, the symptoms were mitigated. On Tuesday, the bowels moved; appetite returned; urination lessened; thirst gone; no cough. On Wednesday, no symptoms remaining indicating a remedy.

S.

—A communication from "Ulster" will appear in our next number.

## IDIOSYNCRACY.

"A peculiarity of constitution, in which a person affected by certain agents, which, if applied to a hundred other persons, would produce no effect, is called a Idiosyncrasy."

A lady, a resident of this city, is so susceptible to the influence of tobacco, that even the smoke from a cigar in the open air, will produce a paroxysm of violent coughing, with a sense of suffocation. This lady was sleeping on the sofa, in the after part of the day, and her son entered and lit his cigar by the fire. He drew upon it but once to insure its lighting, and instantly left the room, as he knew how his mother suffered from its smoke; but he never supposed that so small a quantity that escaped into the apartment could, by any possibility, produce effects. However, in a few moments, she was awakened from a sound sleep with a horrible oppression of her chest—shootings in the chest upon every inspiration, with a dry convulsive cough.

The distressed and alarmed family assembled around the mother to relieve her of the violent effects of so small a cause, and there could be no doubt of the reality. This was not effected in a small, confined room, but in a large, high ceiling, modern drawing-room.

From these, two things are made manifest, the accuracy of the symptoms recorded of tobacco in the materia medica of Homœopathy, and the powerful effect of an exceedingly small dose, of a particular substance, addressed to an irritable nerve.

The Homœopathist, therefore, needs not bulk or great quantity to produce the decided action and grand effects that, to the uninitiated, may look like magic, while the work is done by an unvarying and universal law of nature. He wants but a perfect knowledge of his materia medica, and of disease; and, like one that knows the secret spring, he has but to lay the weight of his little finger upon the *exact spot*, and the opposing obstacle yields easily, safely, and quietly, that otherwise would require the crow-bar and the sledge hammer, with noise, danger, and confusion in the *attempt* to produce the like result.

He who applies medicine on the Homœopathic law, deals with a sharp edge tool that cuts deep, and let him see to it that he bears on with a light hand.

A young man with as fair a share of health as is usually allotted to man, and of great promise, was seized with Parotitis [mumps].

The parotid gland was swollen and painful;

the tongue was coated white; the pulse accelerated. The young gentleman, under the advice of an allopathic physician, took ten grs. of calomel—a medium dose for that school. But, mark it! this disease [mumps] had created an idiosyncrasy in this young man to the action of mercury. Mercury, to do good—great good, in this case, must be given in Homœopathic doses; for it is a similar irritant—the true specific.

The action of mercury in the Homœopathic Materia Medica is thus described:—"Painful swelling of the parotid gland; tongue coated with a white fur; fever." Here is a like affection—to be cured by atomic doses, not by grains.

Twelve hours after this young man had swallowed this dose, every symptom of his disease was fearfully aggravated. The gland became more swollen, hard, and painful; the tongue more coated; the fever increased; the action became more and more intense until life was exhausted. He died on the fourth day. What killed him? the *mumps* or *mercury*?

If one drop of the tincture of tobacco had been given to the lady above described, what would have been the effect?

Hahnemann, sooner or later, must receive the gratitude of mankind for his unwearied perseverance in discovering the effects of drugs upon the human system; and if you wish to know how sad a thing is the want of this knowledge, it may be seen in the tear of a widowed mother that sorrows for her only son, cut off in youth by a dose, administered with no bad intent, but in ignorance of the specific effects of mercury, and the idiosyncrasy, created by disease, to its action.

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HOMŒOPATHY IN SOUTH AMERICA.—We extract the following from a Brazilian paper:—

"The Municipal Chamber of the imperial city of Netherohy having condescended to yield to the Brazilian Homœopathic Institution a room in the palace, where they hold their sessions, in which consultations are afforded to the poor; the directors of the said Institution, thus pledged by this act of pure philanthropy, have the pleasure to announce, that from this time forward, advice and medicine will be gratuitously given in the said room of the Municipal Chamber, every Tuesday and Friday, from four to six, in the afternoon."



HOMŒOPATHY IN VIENNA.—We are glad to learn [says the British Journal of Homœopathy] that the state of Homœopathy at Vienna is highly satisfactory; the new Journal has been well received, and has excited much interest among the profession. The next number is already in the press, and contains a re-proving of Aconite, by Dr. Gerstel. Several highly educated and intelligent English physicians are at present studying Homœopathy at the Hospital of the Sisters of Charity, and appeared greatly interested in watching the results of the treatment of acute disease, pursued by Dr. Fleischmann.

We have every reason to believe that the chair of Homœopathy, so long talked of, is very soon to be instituted.

The Editors of this Journal are encouraged by the almost daily reception of letters which express approbation of their labors; and, what is of some importance, most of the letters enclose from one to five dollars from subscribers. The former is a source of gratification to the Editors; and the latter is perfectly satisfactory to the Printer.

We feel no hesitation in asking every physician of our school, to send us, at their earliest convenience, five or more subscribers from among the laity of their acquaintance, which they can do, and even more.

We perform a duty by expressing our thanks to Dr. McManus, of Baltimore, Drs. Piper and Green, of Washington, D. C., Mr. C. W. Brink, of Burlington, N. J., and Dr. W. E. Payne of Bath, Me., who have given *substantial* evidence that they will stand to their duty, in promulgating the truth in the healing art, as advocated by the American Journal of Homœopathy.

Drs. Barlow, Haynel, Bolles, and Bowers, have consented on invitation from the N. Y. Bureau, to co-operate with it in the trial of drugs.

#### HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Smith's Homœopathic Pharmacy, 592 Broadway, adjoining Niblo's Theatre. John T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's, Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order Homœopathic Plasters, a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

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GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's, Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jahr's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets, Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epps' Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes. Corks, Labels, etc. etc.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I. New-York, Saturday, August 15, 1846. NO. 9.

DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

**J. H. Tobitt, Printer,**  
No. 9 Spruce-street, New-York.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 592 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway; and at Van Beuren's, 223 Bleeker street.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 Broadway.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

New-York, Saturday, August 15, 1846.

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## MORTALITY OF CHILDREN.

The mortality of children in our city and elsewhere is a grave subject; and what we say of it should be with great care, that we may not put forth error instead of truth. There are however, in our judgment, enough of clearly ascertained facts, which, if closely regarded, will enable us to progress with safety.

The City Inspector reports 547 deaths from the 18th of July to the 1st of August. Of this number, 320 were two years of age and under.

On examining these reports, we cannot make out of what these children died. We have selected all the diseases named in the list, with which children are liable to be afflicted, and yet the number is only 275; viz., cholera infantum 91, convulsions 44, croup 3, dropsy in the head 20, scarlet fever 4, whooping cough 15, inflammation of the brain 11, inflammation of the bowels 17, inflammation of the lungs 13, marasmus 43, premature birth 2, sprue 4, teething 7, worms 1. We notice this as evidence, among other points, of the imperfection of these reports in the names of diseases. We do not blame the Inspector, for he is governed by the certificates of physicians. In the reports before us for two weeks, may be seen, died of "debility 14." What kind of disease is "debility?" We do not know. For a scientific physician to write a certificate "died of debility," would be as reasonable as to certify *died of a want of breath*. In truth, there can be little or no reliance on this branch of these reports. We agree with a Dr. A. L. C. who recently wrote a silly paper against Homœopathy, that every case of death should be investigated by the authorities, if it were at all practicable, and the investigation should be thorough.

We propose, in the next place, to notice a very common disease of young children, and of which many die,—many more than is suspected by parents or physicians. We allude to *sprue*. This disease is known in the books by the name of *aphthæ*. Sometimes it is called the "baby's sore mouth."

It is not necessary to describe this sore mouth, as almost every one has seen it. The best authorities agree that this affection is of a symptomatic kind, or very rarely, if ever, an original disease. As evidence of this, "it is almost uniformly preceded by a deranged condition of the alimentary canal, and always, we believe, by some disturbance of the stomach itself. The brain also shows signs of participating in



this complaint, as there is almost always an unusual inclination to sleep, though the child is frequently disturbed in its nap by some internal irritation, perhaps of the bowels themselves." And the ignorant nurse will often exclaim, "the child is sleeping for a sore mouth." The bowels are often teased by watery, acrid stools, of a greenish color; their discharge is frequently attended with the eruption of much wind, and to judge from the noise, it would be supposed there was a very large discharge of fœces, though upon examination it is found to be very sparing.

This is an exceedingly brief description of the condition of children laboring under *sprue*; but it is enough for our purpose. From this we will try to show why infants have this sore mouth. Every infant, without any exception, has previously to the development of the sore mouth, a derangement of the stomach or bowels, or both. How came these to be deranged? Is there any necessity for an infant's stomach and bowels to become deranged? We answer most positively, there is not. This derangement arises mostly from the ignorant and destructive doings of the nurse, or the mother, or the physician, or all three combined. This is not mere assertion: it is a sober fact. We have lived long enough, and have seen young children enough, and nurses enough, and mothers enough, and physicians enough, and enough of their doings towards young infants, to enable us to form an opinion which ought to be of some use in the health and life of children. This whole mischief comes first; of improper diet, of unnecessary drugging, of too frequent and irregular feeding of the infant. Secondly; of improper drinks and diet on the part of the mother or wet-nurse; and also improper and unnecessary taking of anodyne and purgative medicines. If a nursing mother takes a cathartic of Epsom salts, or salts and senna, almost invariably the child's bowels will be purged: if she takes opium, the first effect on the child is to constipate the bowels, and if left without doing anything, in a short time a looseness of the bowels comes on; but the usual course is, the nurse administers a dose of castor oil to relieve the constipation which in this case is a drug symptom, and then follows griping and purging. In this way that derangement is effected in a child's stomach and bowels, which precedes the development of *sprue* or sore mouth. Now, if an allopathic physician be called in, and if he administers a dose or several doses of calomel,

very often a condition will soon be induced, which he will term cholera infantum, or marasmus; and death will follow of ulceration of the bowels, attended with convulsions or symptoms of dropsy in the brain. Very lately we saw a case of this kind where there was not only ulceration of the bowels, but also of the stomach. This can be explained. The mercury is homœopathic to this disease, and is cured by it promptly in the thirtieth or twelfth dilutions, or the third trituration;—often by a single dose, if not interfered with by the nurse. If given in large doses as in the allopathic school, it aggravates the disease to such a degree in most cases, that the little sufferer has not vital energy to withstand it. The best authorities of the allopathic school do not allow of the use of mercury in these cases; but, for a reason of which we are ignorant, it is now almost always prescribed.

*Marasmus* is often induced by a badly treated *sprue*. Frequently the sore mouth exists during the whole course of this disease; but it is entirely overlooked by the old school. *Marasmus* by them is placed to the credit of *scrofula*, a condition of the human system which is not known in that school, and cannot be, until Hahnemann's views of chronic diseases are acknowledged.

Although we are at times compelled to write hastily, yet we wish it understood, that these views have been entertained by us for years, and have been confirmed so often by observation, that we fully believe them to be true, and will bear the test of the closest investigation.

## HOMŒOPATHY THE ONLY TRUE PRINCIPLE IN THERAPEUTICS.

Continued.

"Experience simply in the administration of drugs, is not a sufficient, nor by any means a safe guide; because they exert an influence upon the system beyond the immediate and temporary effects sought by their use." And this influence is often serious, sometimes fatal, and always to be apprehended.

We need hardly adduce any testimony to show that drugs often produce effects far different and more remote than those contemplated by their use. Instances like the following are familiar to every medical man.

A fraction of a grain of calomel given in a powder mixture, has often produced severe salivation, when it was not intended nor desired. A small dose of calomel given to children in



cases of *aphthæ* (*sprue*), has frequently determined the disease to the bowels and induced ulceration, of which they die; and the cause, perhaps, is never suspected.

*Antimony*, injudiciously given, frequently prostrates children beyond all reaction; and this has been so fully demonstrated to some respectable allopathic physicians of our acquaintance, that they never prescribe antimony to a child, except in doses almost as small as our school administers. We remember a case in which it was given to a child, not very sick of whooping cough: it produced immediate and complete prostration, from which the child never rallied. Given to adults, in simple ailments, it has produced the most severe and fatal consequences. A few years ago the doctrines of Broussais prevailed to a great extent among the profession, and as is well known, *gastro enterite* was every thing with him and his disciples; and antimony was a favorite remedy with many of these, and we certainly saw in their patients more cases of sub-acute inflammation of the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, than we have seen since—induced as it was by frequently repeated doses of antimony. Very lately a female, by the advice of her physician, took an antimony emetic, which caused so great an irritation of the stomach and prostration of strength, that her friends became alarmed; and the physician, to remedy the mischief he had done, gave sixty drops of laudanum, with directions to repeat the dose in case she did not improve. The dose was repeated; and she died the following morning of opium symptoms; and we can scarcely resist adding, that the certificate read “died of remittent fever.”

*Calomel* predisposes the system to bilious attacks; rheumatic affections; to colds, &c., long after its use. Professor Chapman, of the University of Pennsylvania, has, in “*The American Journal of Medical Sciences*,” &c., made it appear, that mercury produces disease of the liver, as well as other complaints. Mercury is a long acting drug; and in some persons never ceases to act.

*Quinine* predisposes to neuralgic difficulties, diseases of the chest, &c. Its free use in intermittent fevers is greatly to be deplored. It rarely leaves the system free from disease; but greatly weakens and subjects it to sufferings from debility, indigestion, chronic cough, tubercles in the lungs, &c. And so of the whole catalogue of drugs, given in large doses, especially in chronic conditions, though they

may relieve for the time, they cannot cure; and characteristic effects of the drug employed, is almost sure to be added, sooner or later, to the latent virus which it had disturbed, but failed to remove from the system. Doses given for one condition often give rise to others. The drug may accomplish *what* it was given for, and it *may* do more. The pathogenesis of a drug should be known before its administration, as also its laws of action. Dr. Williams (allopath), in his *Elements of Medicine*, says: “It is seldom that the action of poisons is limited to one membrane, or organ, or system of organs; the greater number of these noxious agents more usually act on two or more membranes, or organs, or system of organs. Alcohol and opium are examples of substances acting generally on three great nervous systems, producing infinite disturbance of the brain, the chord, and the great sympathetic, and *subsequently setting up limited or specific local actions*.” The remark that “the remedy is worse than the disease,” is often made by those who have witnessed the aggravations produced by drugs in ordinary cases of disease, and who have observed the after effects of drugs. The long period of convalescence from acute attacks, the debility and emaciation, the increased susceptibilities of the patient to the slightest disturbing cause, the predisposition to suffer from local affections, and the supervention of local diseases.

A cure by such means is sometimes purchased at the expense of a broken constitution and a life of misery. It is a poor boon, to be rid of a temporary difficulty by having substituted for it one of permanency and incurability. Drugs may not be taken with impunity; and the relief they sometimes afford will not justify their use in large doses. The mischief they may do is by far greater than any good they are capable of accomplishing. If drugs have a specific action upon the system, and if they have any peculiar relations to diseased conditions; if they affect the system in accordance with fixed principles and laws, then is the question of their use empirically (experimentally) settled. He who uses them without knowledge of their specific effects—of their peculiar relations to disease—of the laws that control their action—is *the quack*,—*the empiric*.

The specific effect of drugs will hardly be disputed by any one. That anconite, arsenic belladonna, hyoscyamus, stramonium, nuxvomica, opium, mercury, antimony, &c., have



an action upon the system peculiar to themselves, is unquestioned.

The peculiar relation of some drugs to certain diseases, is well known and regarded in practice; as that of mercury to syphilis, sulphur to the itch, hydriodate of potash to scrofula, &c. The philosophic mind would suppose this relation to hold good throughout, and would naturally seek to discover it. Such was the case with Hahnemann, who was amply rewarded for his researches, by being able to demonstrate the relation, based upon a great universal law. Others have, in like manner, proved this relation; and now the evidence is so accumulated, that the truth of it is to be presumed. No principle in science has a greater amount of evidence; and it commands belief upon the same testimony as other principles or facts do. It can no more be refuted by simple denial than can any fact in astronomy or chemistry.

If this be so, what estimate will he make of his own intelligence, his love of science, love of truth, and sympathy for the sufferings and misfortunes of his fellow creatures, who, regardless of them, persists in a course ignoble because empirical; blighting to the progress and independence of his own mind, and mischievous, because he professes to practise a healing art; whereas he inflicts an immense amount of suffering and disease. No honest mind can reject this testimony unless it be imbued with prejudice to an extent altogether inexcusable and inglorious.

Drugs then have a natural relation to disease; and it is determined by the existing similarity of the symptoms of disease to those characteristic of drugs; and this, and this alone, should be the guide to their use.

To be continued.

## ON THE ACTION OF IMPERCEPTIBLE AGENTS ON THE LIVING BODY.

BY PROFESSOR D'AMADOR.

Concluded.

After adducing the well-known facts of the chemical purity of the air in localities where ague, the plague, the cholera, or epidemic diseases are committing their ravages; after observing that the contents of the poison-bag of the viper resembles in chemical composition sweet almond oil; that the pus of the pestiferous bubo, the lymph of the vaccine pustule, differ not, save in their effects, from ordinary

pus and lymph; he infers that the material we subject to our analysis is but the vehicle in which an immaterial ethereal virus resides, analogous in this respect to the vivifying principle of the organized being. But we shall give his own eloquent words:—

“What, gentlemen, can we conclude from all this, but that pathology resembles other branches of our science? What can we conclude, if not that a morbid cause is always, and under all circumstances, the product of a force, and that the material form in which it presents itself to our view, is but the gross covering that conceals it from us: that external forces only act on our organs when they meet with forces in us on which they can act: hence the invisible, the instantaneous character, the celerity of pathogenetic actions, whether of contagions, or of epidemics, or of the natural or artificial inoculation of diseases. In all cases it is forces which meet, combat, combine, repel, neutralize each other, or mutually regulate one another. Our health, disease, death, our very existence, is but the result of these forces. Thus it is that nature, in the immense scale of being, has sketched, as it were, an entire system of forces, and that passing from forces which are not precipient to those that are, from inanimate to living forces, she has, by gradually progressive shades, at last developed in man the supreme type of forces, and the most elevated degree of existence. In man, indeed, life does not exist solely in sensible and irritable organs, in the involuntary motions they execute, nor in the connected chain produced and maintained by the combined actions of life. In man, true life consists in thought, in that intellectual something which gives us consciousness of our existence, and in that power of will which renders us masters of ourselves. Such is life at its culminating point, force *par excellence*, the greatest, the most profound, the most inexplicable of all mysteries. Life, which not only gives us the enjoyment of ourselves, but which attaches us to all that surrounds us. It is by means of it that the grand spectacle of nature attracts our attention, that our ideas dart from pole to pole more rapidly than lightning; it is by means of it that thought embraces in its grasp in a moment of time the whole expanse of worlds, all the vast extent of the universe, and loses itself in infinity.

“There is, then, in every science, and particularly in medicine, both sensible facts which are seen, and invisible facts which can only be



conceived, both demonstrable and inductive facts, both facts which are apparent, and such as are more concealed, which, without being seen, regulate and govern the other facts. It is these invisible and only essential facts that alone are important, for they are the generators of other facts; and in every case that which is not seen governs that which is visible. These facts are the various forces of nature. These forces are at the bottom of all visible phenomena, they produce them, they modify them for good or for evil, and, since they are the true causes, if we modify them we shall modify the phenomena themselves. 'For the true springs of our organization,' as Buffon remarks, 'are not those muscles, those veins, those arteries, which are described with such exactness and care. There exist in organized bodies internal forces, which do not follow the gross mechanical laws we imagine, and to which we would reduce every thing.' This thought has been expressed in different terms, by a man as great in the astronomical, as Buffon was in the physical sciences, whose name corresponds in France to that of Newton in England. 'Beyond the limits of this visible anatomy,' says Laplace, 'commences another anatomy whose phenomena we cannot perceive; beyond the limits of this external physiology of forces, of action, and of motion, exists another invisible physiology, whose principles, effects, and laws, it is of greater importance to know.' And, we may add, that beyond the limits of these material and voluminous therapeutics, there are other therapeutics far more important to know, and far more useful to practice.

"Thus the greatest men, of whom the sciences usually opposed in spirit to medicine can boast, are unanimous in the admission of a vital dynamism; and I imagine, gentlemen, I have a fair title for obtaining your assent to this great dogma, by placing it under the ægis of these illustrious names.

"I have thus, I conceive, proved to you that the most active agents in nature are imperceptible entities, which, like electricity, magnetism, heat, and light, have neither odor, savor, color, volume, dimensions, determinate shapes, nor definite proportions; which pervade all things without being anywhere perceptible; which govern all things without being seen themselves; which penetrate everywhere, but whose essence we cannot penetrate. Agents of life, of health, of death, and of disease, nature has disseminated them every where throughout the immensity of space, under the

graceful form of flowers, in the fluids which are appropriated or rejected by animals and plants. To these invisible agents, to these forces we owe our earliest breath; to them also is due our latest sigh; from them alone is derived the continuance of our existence, and they are the source of the derangements we are subject to. Physiology, hygiene toxicology, and pathology, in other words, the sciences of life, of health, of death, and of disease, are all dependent on the same principle; for it is a force, a breath, that creates, kills, preserves us, that produces our diseases, and occasions our sufferings.

"It remains to be proved, gentlemen, that therapeutics are, and ought to be, similar to the other departments of our art,—that it is also a breath, a force, that cures and relieves our disorders. It remains to be proved, in order to trace the complete scientific circle, that the therapeutics of forces, the dynamic therapeutics, the vitalist therapeutics, (for they are all the same,) are likewise, of all possible therapeutics, if not the only true, at least the speediest, the surest, the most appropriate, and, in the vast majority of cases, the most efficacious of all therapeutics; that they are the most rational in theory, and the most successful in their practical application; that they alone ought to be, that they alone are, able to realize the three grand degrees that Celsus, even at the early period when he flourished, demanded of all useful therapeutics, to cure diseases quickly, certainly, and agreeably. In a word, it remains to be proved, that if there be a dynamical, a vital physiology, hygiene, toxicology, and pathology, there ought to be therapeutics of a similar character."

After quoting some facts from allopathic observers to prove that such is the case, among others the experiments of M. Lafarge, who always succeeded in producing an eruption of a specific character by the inoculation of the most minute portions of laudanum—1-500th, 1,1000th, 1-2000th of a grain, and the observations of M. Soubeiran with respect to the efficacy of extremely minute doses of a certain ferruginous preparation, our author goes on to say:—

"But it will be said, these facts may be true, but they are repugnant to common sense. Gentlemen, if the action of imperceptible agents is opposed to common sense, that is as much as to say, that experience is opposed to it; but as common sense and experience are not, and cannot be contradictory, if common



sense refuses to believe in the action of imperceptible agents, common sense stands in need of a thorough reform, which experience will be able to effect. Science, which is nothing else than the reflection of experience, has, in this manner, reformed common sense several times. Common sense believed for centuries that the world was fixed, and astronomical science corrected common sense, and brought it to its own way of thinking. The virtue of vaccine was repugnant to common sense, at the period of its discovery; but, now-a-days, experience has so completely demonstrated it, that any one who doubted it would be held to be destitute of common sense. In fine, common sense rebelled, and with some reason, against the frightful doses of the Italian school. It could not be comprehended how twenty grains of tartar emetic would not produce vomiting, when two grains caused copious evacuation; but here again, as elsewhere, science—that is to say, experience, has advantageously put common sense to rights.

“And should we, with this before us, treat with contempt a system of therapeutics which is but the application of one of our most certain maxims? To the diseased vital forces let us oppose the forces of natural substances, but divested of all material covering; these forces will thus be brought face to face; they will act directly on each other, without any interposing agent; and hence will ensue more rapid, more certain, and more agreeable cures.

\* \* \* Observe, finally, gentlemen, that the vital therapeutics of which I speak are to medicine what the study of electricity and the imponderables has been to chemistry,—what the study of motive powers has been to mechanical art. \* \* \* Far from overthrowing Hippocratism, or the true vitalism of Montpellier, our modern therapeutics confirm, complete, extend, and apply it, add what was wanting to it, and supply its deficiencies. The Divine Old Man bequeathed to us, so to say, the code of medicine, in which its great laws were laid down, its principles registered, its fundamental dogmas established; the work of ages is and ever shall be to deduce from these premises the most remote consequences; to bring all the great facts which subsequent discoveries may reveal and produce within the Hippocratic domain. Some of these discoveries have been already gathered in, and can never more be lost; others have been sown, and as yet exist but in the germ; but nought can blast this germ; on the contrary, it will

grow, and the tree will yield its fruit to us and to all posterity.”—*British Journal of Homœopathy*.

#### LETTER OF HAHNEMANN TO DR. STAFF.

LEIPZIG, Sept. 1813.

Dear Friend,—Your kind feeling towards myself and our art delights me much, and alleviates many of the burdens of life. Husband your strength; do not over-labor; and always consider how much you can overtake in the way of thinking, speaking, and writing, in a given time, without consuming your powers too fast. For you have reason to expect enduring health and a long life; and in a long life, well regulated and passed in tranquility of mind, a man can accomplish much—yes, incredibly much good, both for himself and others. You have natural endowments for all that I expect of you, and you will undoubtedly make it good. This I perceive by the symptoms of chamomilla, rhus, pulsatilla, nux-vomica, cina, and opium. Your observations are honest and exact. Continue to work in this true spirit. What we perform in this department is a religious work for the good of humanity. Men may or may not now recognize our pure and benevolent intentions;—we do not live for the applause of men alone. The Omnipresent and All Holy One views our labor with complacency; and to Him alone, and to our own consciences, do we live here and hereafter.

You are right, that the aggravation, by any substance, of symptoms which are present, most probably indicates that the medicine has the power of exciting these symptoms of itself. We must not, however, incorporate such symptoms in the list of the positive effects of the medicine, at least not in writing. All we may do is to bear them in mind, so as to direct our attention to them specially, should they occur for the first time during the use of the medicine.

When I propose any substance for proving, I will take care that it is not one which is dangerous to the health, and so prepared that it will not affect you too violently; for we are not entitled to do injury to ourselves. I send you along with this some tincture of pure *Hel-leborus niger*, which I gathered myself. Each drop contains 1-20th of a grain of the root. Any day when you are well, and have no very urgent business, and have not eaten any medicinal substance (such as parsley) at dinner, take one drop of this to eight ounces of water,



and a scruple of alcohol (to prevent its decomposition), shake it briskly, and take an ounce of it while fasting; and so every hour and a half or two hours another ounce, as long as you are not too severely affected with what you take. But should severe symptoms set in, which I am not afraid of, you may take some drops of tincture of camphor in an ounce of water, or more, if necessary; and this will allay the symptoms.

After all the effects of the hellebore have subsided, I wish you to try the effects of camphor alone: it is a divine remedy. About two grains dissolved in a scruple of alcohol, and shaken with eight ounces of water, take four or six times a day, with similar precaution as the other.

I hope you will occasionally write something in the *Allgemeine Anzeiger* in honor of Homœopathy. Your style is rich, fluent, and energetic; and the good cause stands in need of such a herald. Besides, nothing educates our mind so much as (improving conversation and) the representation of our thoughts in published writings. This gradually induces a wonderful correctness in thinking, and gives distinctness of expression, so as to enable us to communicate our thoughts in such a way that others may read our very soul, and build themselves upon it. We are thus enabled to bring about in others a conviction of that which they ought to know. It is by our convictions and our doctrines that we sway our age.

Yours, most truly,

SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

#### DR. WHEATON'S LETTER TO THE EDITORS.

*Extract of a letter from Dr. P. Wheaton, of Detroit, Michigan. Dated July 19th, 1846.*

"We like the tone of your editorials much, especially as it regards dilutions. We are convinced that the cause of truth loses nothing by a rigid examination; and when we arrive at truth, then let it be known immediately. There are plenty of Hahnemannians throughout the States, who applaud your course, and, I am very confident, will sustain you in it. If the state of our own minds can be depended upon as an index, this is certain to be the case. And furthermore, we would say, that on the one hand, tampering and knuckling to allœopathy . . . . . is not the thing. . . . . No man can witness the application of the thirtieth attenuation of the appropriate Homœopathic drug, and deny its powerfully curative and even aggravating effects on the disease. This we have seen repeatedly; and I even lost a case into the depths of allœopathy, through the injudicious use of nux-vomica of the six-

teenth attenuation; the patient declaring that she would not take such powerful drugs, as every dose made her worse. This statement I have heard from many; and now we never give the nux in that dilution—nor, in fact, any other drug. We give, in all chronic cases, the thirtieth attenuation; and to all cases of children, and even many acute cases of adults. Yet in intermittents and bilious fevers, we often give the third attenuation, and even pure tinctures often repeated, and with prompt relief without bad effects.

I wish personally likewise to state, while on this subject, that I kept all my chronic patients on the first to the sixteenth attenuations, during one year of my Homœopathic practice; and I must candidly own that not one radical cure was effected. Many cases were palliated; but very many daily and rapidly grew worse, especially while under the use of the sixth to the sixteenth attenuations. In time, and after serious reflection, I discovered my error, and put my patients on the thirtieth; and they rapidly and permanently improved. Our experience so far, goes to prove that worse aggravations are caused by the medium dilutions, than by the third, and even below; so that at present we either use the thirtieth, or else the third, or below this, and skip the intermediate dilutions entirely, excepting with Belladonna and aconite occasionally."

Dr. Wheaton is the partner of Dr. Ellis; and this accounts for his use of "we" and "I" in his letter. We do not know that the Doctor intended any portion of his letter for publication; but we think our readers will agree with us, that it is too valuable to throw away. Such testimony will tend to induce physicians of our school, to put to the test of rigid experiment, Hahnemann's method of curing diseases. It is a striking fact, that no one in any part of the world, who has honestly tested his method, but has been compelled to acknowledge his results. Why do Homœopaths hesitate to treat diseases as he did? At the present time the evidence of its truth is very ample, and constantly accumulating. We are urged by a sense of duty to speak in strong terms of disapprobation of those who call themselves after Hahnemann's name, but do not as he did. The truth is greatly injured thereby; but we do hope and expect that every member of our school "will see eye to eye." If we form our opinion from positive experience, we shall do so; if not, not. We are often mortified to hear of failures in the cure of disease by what is erroneously called Homœopathy, while in truth she had nothing to do with it.

We have yet to meet the opponent of the higher dilutions of drugs, who had tested their efficacy by proper experiment. The higher dilutions may be administered to the sick, and at



the same time, be so managed as to be no test whatever. This we have often seen; much oftener than we hope ever to see again. We must bring everything embraced in Homœopathy to a strict test of experiment; and in doing so, follow Hahnemann closely, and thereby furnish evidence of the truth or falsity of his doctrines and practice.

#### EXTRACT FROM A LETTER.

We have received a letter from a highly respectable member of the bar in Michigan, who was in this city a few months ago, during which time he had frequent conversations with us on Homœopathy; but, lawyer-like, he concealed from us his convictions on the subject; but after he returned home, under date of July 23d, 1846, he writes to us a most interesting letter, from which, without asking his consent, we have made a few extracts for our readers; viz:—"You are, no doubt, aware that when I left New-York I was a believer in your beautiful art and science, so far as I could be without further experience and observation. Since that period, a practice, as it were forced upon me, almost as extensive as that of ordinary physicians, has but confirmed my convictions.

On my return I was surprised to find that one of my nearest neighbors had used the medicine for a year in his family, with the most perfectly satisfactory results. There were also not less than *four* individuals under Dr. L.'s treatment for chronic diseases—all having commenced since I left home. The success was already remarkable. Dr. L... has practiced on the old plan twenty years, and now *five* years Homœopathically, and is almost as enthusiastic as any of you. He is at least forty-five years of age, and has been a good physician, and is a man of sense and high character. He lives about fourteen miles from this place.

A lady living near us has been terribly afflicted with dyspepsia, &c., until she had become partially deranged, believing she was doomed to certain perdition, &c. I commenced treating her (temporarily of course), and enabled her to sleep comfortably, and in many respects relieved her. She is now under the care of Dr. L..., with a prospect of improvement. I have treated three cases of whooping-cough in very delicate children, at the earnest request of their parents. You may think that for one so inexperienced, and having no book but the "Domestic Medicine," it

was a very difficult and responsible affair. I, however, borrowed from a neighbor, a little epitome of a *Materia Medica*, which, inadequate as it is, was of invaluable assistance. So far I have had most gratifying success, and have made several converts to the science. Of course I have made them understand that I wished to get rid of all such practice, and there is quite a call for Dr. L...

One case was a dangerous one. It was a little girl about five years old. She had been sick six weeks, and was continually vomiting and purging; and the parents expected to lose her. She had been out of health for a year with liver complaint, and had just before had the mumps and measles. I gave her *ipicac*; allowing twenty-four hours for its operation; then *veratrum* allowing forty-eight hours—as the symptoms seemed to allow it. By that time the internal troubles seemed almost removed. I then gave her *drosera*, and the whooping-cough yielded at once. Still she was not well, though much better, and had some slight eruption about the mouth. I then gave her *hepar sulphur*, which, in three or four days, brought out a most horrible scabby eruption on the head, face, neck, and back, not going below the waist. They did not tell me of this, but called a doctor, who pronounced the eruption a fortunate thing, and gave no medicine, except, I believe, to recommend *sarsaparilla*, which they gave for a week or more, until the child was attacked with dysentery. They then called me, and I stopped it *at once* with *mercurius*. I believe she is now doing well, the eruption being nearly healed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Homœopathy is gaining ground here with astonishing rapidity. The fact is (leaving us out) the science here is in first-rate hands and *defies* contempt."

#### CASE,

By Dr. Barlow, one of the physicians of the N. Y. Homœopathic Dispensary.

Miss B. W., aged fifty-two, and of scrofulous diathesis, formerly much subject to bilious affections, with sick headache; sixteen years since became partially paralytic in the left fore-arm and hand, which was then supposed to arise from enlarged glands about the neck from scrofula: fifteen years since, during a severe attack of what was supposed to be sick headache, became apoplectic, the sequelæ of which was nearly a complete paralysis



of the left hand and arm. For the last fifteen years the arm has been useless, quite pulseless, nearly bloodless, numb, prickling, with occasional turns of severe pain of the whole arm, and which, from their severity, were nearly insupportable,—the limb flabby, diminished in size, so utterly destitute of strength and firmness that in endeavoring to excute some trifling motion, the thumb, fingers, and sometimes even the wrist, would, as it were, fall out of joint. Being left-handed, she would often try to do with that limb what she, under other circumstances, would not. She was scarcely able to raise the hand without the aid of the right, and not able to hold anything in the hand with safety or steadiness. Disposition fretful, touchy, irritable, easily discouraged, and inclined to weep, mind weakened. General health in most respects delicate. Nervous, excitable, unhappy.

On the first of July I gave her *rhus radicans* three pellets of the third dilution—the same on the morning of the second. She passed a somewhat restless night with much severe aching of the back of the neck, shoulders, instep and toes of the left foot, with severe tingling, and prickling of the left arm and hand.

Through the 2d, 3d, and 4th of July the pains continued severe, and extended to the whole left arm and hand which seemed swollen, and the veins of the left limb, which had rarely been susceptible to the sight or feel, became full, blue, hard, painful in the extreme. All this was attended with dizziness of the head, slight terms of faintness, great irritability and complaining, less than usual appetite, insecure feeling when walking, or unsteadiness of gait, free motions of the bowels and abundant discharge of pale urine.

On the 5th, the unusual symptoms began to abate; and in about three days she was free from any considerable suffering, with a quite perceptible, yet rather feeble pulse, where, for fifteen years, none had been detected even by physicians, veins remained filled giving the limb nearly the appearance it had before being paralyzed, daily sensible increase of the usefulness of the limb.

On the 13th, she was able to use a needle, and is now at this writing (August 1st) able to do one third of a day's work at sewing. There is still yet daily increase of power in the limb, with improvement of the general health, rarely feels slight pain in the limb, is more cheerful, less irritable, has more ambition and fortitude. She is yet resting from all medicine; but fol-

lows strict rules of diet. I design to repeat the medicine at some future period if improvement ceases short of perfect restoration of the functions of the diseased organ.

I have another case of paralysis of the right arm under treatment with the same medicine, with certainly some benefit; but how much remains to be seen.

### A CASE.

Mrs. B., aged 55, of a sanguine, nervous temperament. Had been sick for three years. One year ago a record was made of her case, and seemingly the most appropriate drugs administered, with only an occasional partial mitigation. The attacks became severe, and were wearing out one of the best constitutions. This lady is intelligent, and one of the firmest advocates of Homœopathia, notwithstanding she could, herself, procure no relief from it. The *law of cure* she knew to be true; but the remedy was wanting.

Lately another record was taken of this case, which was as follows:—

Pain on the top of the head in the morning, swimming in head when stooping or rising, cloudiness of the eyes, soreness of mouth and throat, dry cough in the morning, attacks of tearing pain, sometimes stinging and sharp, commencing in the stomach and extending to the sides and shoulders and nape of the neck, with stiffness; distress in stomach like a weight, mitigated by eating; sense of fulness in stomach; wind on stomach, eructations; cannot bear the pressure of even light clothes. Pain in the bowels, bearing down or pressing pain; pain in the left side, as if something adhered to the lower ribs. Constipation; sense of dragging and falling in abdomen; pain in the hips and legs; pain as if in the bones, like rheumatism; jerking of the feet in the evening. Numbness of the arms, with prickling in the fingers. Sleep disturbed, frequent wakings; pain in the stomach at night. Fatigue from walking; excessive debility; sufferings aggravated on change of weather. The pains are tearing, stinging, pressing, and shifting—sometimes on the left; and sometimes on the right sides; and then on both sides at the same time; some of then aggravated by movement, and others mitigated by lying down and rest.

The attacks had occurred daily at five o'clock, P. M., and almost invariably at night, awaking her from sleeping, there had been no intermission for months.

As I had been trying *rhus radicans* on my-



self for some weeks, I was struck with the peculiar stinging, pricking pains of this case as corresponding to those I had experienced in my own person by the above drug. On the 26th of June last, at 4 o'clock, P. M., I gave her three globules of the third dilution of *rhus radicans*. She had no attack that day, nor has she had any since;—her health improved, and it is now good.

S——.

### LAWS OF HEALTH.—DISEASE.

The ordinary and injudicious use of drugs is a prolific cause of disease.—That drugs are capable of producing in the system permanently disturbed and diseased conditions, is evident from observation and their *laws of action*.

Drugs have an action in the system far different from the palliative effect intended by their use. Notwithstanding they may relieve the existing condition, they subsequently affect the system in a way peculiar to the substance employed,—they set up their specific actions. According to the law of “the specific and definite action of medicines (poisons), *they have a period of lateness*,” and, consequently, some time must elapse “before their specific actions come into operation.” \* \* \* \* \* “When a medicine acts on more parts than one, a considerable space of time may elapse after it has affected one organ before it affects another.

If these laws were observed, and the specific actions of drugs studied, the frequency of the aggravations produced, and of new conditions instituted, would astonish those who so habitually employ them.

In regard to a few substances these laws are regarded by the more intelligent and judicious members of the profession, and they avoid their use, save in cases, in their estimation, of great emergency or absolute necessity. This admission in relation to a few, is equally true as to the whole, and if it acknowledges the principle at all, it should forever, and in every case, be regarded.

Upon what principle, then, may drugs be employed at the hazard of producing their *specific latent* effects in accordance with the above laws? If upon the ground of necessity,—if the physician is possessed of no other means, this fact, and the true subsequent probable effect of the drug he wishes to use should be clearly and fully made known to the patient and his friends. They ought certainly to be

informed that drugs are poisons; that they do not affect the system temporarily, merely; but that they produce other and far different effects from those wished, by their present use;—that they do not immediately produce their poisonous effects; that they lie latent in the system some time, and subsequently set up their specific actions; that they may operate upon other parts or organs than those now deranged or diseased; that though they may afford relief, they will give rise to other and more or less remote difficulties; and that then new difficulties will be severe, according to the *predisposition* of the patient to the influence of the remedy. Knowing these laws and effects, the physician is bound by every principle of moral obligation and common honesty, to see that his patients fully understand the nature of the means he employs, and the conditions upon which he is able to afford him present palliation.

It ought certainly to be optional with the patient, or his friends, after understanding fully the whole ground, and means, and conditions, upon which probable, or even certain relief can be afforded him, whether or not he will accept them. How can the course of the physician be justified, if he proceed, with the patient in ignorance of the consequences,—to change or remove one condition by substituting for it another, perhaps of a more serious and incurable character?

It should be *optional with the patient*, whether or not he will consent to suffer his life long from the specific effects of the remedy proposed to palliate his present sufferings.”

If he can be cured of his *chills and fever* by no other than such means as will leave his system weak, predisposed to similar attacks, rendered susceptible to innumerable disturbing causes, or to have disease engendered upon some vital organ—as tubercles in the lungs, as often results from the use of *quinine*, it should certainly be subject to *his own decision* whether he will submit to their use, or resort to other means than those proposed.

We might multiply instances of the latent and local effects of drugs, consequent upon their use in ordinary cases of deranged conditions which need only to be seen to be recognized; but this is unnecessary, because generally admitted, and because they must necessarily result from their laws of action. Upon these laws and effects, their use in poisonous (ordinary doses), must be condemned. They are in themselves evidence against such use. They cannot produce curative, but must ne-



cessarily produce poisonous effects; and it follows, that the principle of their use, so as to secure their *curative* influence, remains to be discovered.

### ALLŒOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA.

Much of the allœopathic *Materia Medica* is owing merely to arbitrary suppositions, from Dioscorides to the present time; more even to speculation in favor of classifications and various systems of medicine, which have been brought forward from time to time; and if we deduct the few remedies known as specifics, and arrived at empirically, and a small amount of clear and unmixed observations on some medicines, little indeed remains that is of decided scientific value in the ordinary *Materia Medica*. If the resources of this branch of medical science were as real and extensive as the works on the subject would lead one to suppose, medical practitioners would not resort with so much eagerness, as they generally do, to the promiscuous and little scientific use of any new remedy, which is recommended mostly upon very light grounds, and often becomes the fashion in medical practice till another starts up and displaces the former. Thus iodine, creosot, prussic acid, calomel, quinine and many others have each been at one time a favorite, often to the irreparable detriment of the invalid; and others will be introduced and again discarded, till by proper methods the true effects of medicines are ascertained, and a *Materia Medica* of real practical value is arrived at. To show that these remarks on the allœopathic *Materia Medica* are not a prejudiced, one-sided statement, let us add in conclusion, a few quotations from allœopathic writers, who testify to the imperfection of this branch of medical science.

Girtanner says: "Our *Materia Medica* is nothing else but a careful collection of fallacious observations, which medical men have made at all times. There certainly are amongst them a few valuable results founded on sound experience; but who will lose his time to search for those few grains of gold in that large mass of rubbish, which physicians have gathered up for the last two thousand years?"

Dr. Cullen says: "The writers on *Materia Medica* abound with numberless false conclusions, which are, however, supposed or pretended to be drawn from experience. Such indeed is the state of this matter, that nobody can

consult these writers with any success or safety, unless he is prepared with a great deal of scepticism on the subject."—*A Concise View, &c.*

### THE SPIRIT OF THE HOMŒOPATHIC DOCTRINE.

BY SAMUEL HAHNEMANN.

Translated by Geddes M. Scott, M. D., of Glasgow, Scotland.

"From seeing evil still educating good."

Continued.

Now, as dynamic affections of the organism, due either to the malady or to medicines, are cognizable only by the manifestation of changes occurring in the manner of feeling and acting, and that in consequence also the resemblance of these dynamic affections can be expressed only by that of symptoms; but that the organism being much more susceptible of being attacked by the medicine than by the malady, yields more to the medicinal affection, that is to say, allows itself to be more modified by it than by the analogous diseased affection, hence it indubitably follows, that it must be disengaged from the diseased affection when we bring it to act upon a medicine which, differing from it in its own nature, approaches as nearly as possible to it in the analogy of its symptoms, that is to say, is Homœopathic: for the organism, in its quality of a living unity, cannot admit at once two similar dynamic affections without the weaker being obliged to give way to the stronger. But, since it has a tendency to be affected more strongly by a medicine than by an analogous malady, the latter must necessarily disappear, and the organism then be cured.

Let no one imagine, that when to cure a living organism of its malady, we communicate to it a new and similar affection by a dose of Homœopathic medicine, it becomes, on that account more oppressed than formerly, that is to say, that an addition has been made to the malady in the same way that a plate of lead, compressed by a weight in iron, becomes still further compressed, when to this we add a stone, or that a piece of copper rendered hot by rubbing, becomes hotter still if we plunge it into boiling water. The case is not so. Our living organism is not regulated by the physical laws of dead matter; it re-acts with a vital resistance, (as being in all points living and on all sides closed,) to disengage itself from its



diseased modification, (and allow it to extinguish itself in it,) when it comes under the influence of another similar but more powerful affection excited by a Homœopathic medicine.

Thus does our living organism re-act in a dynamic, and in some sort, spiritual manner. In virtue of a self-acting power, it arrests in its interior a weaker discordant affection (the disease) as soon as the stronger power of the Homœopathic medicine procures for it another but very analogous affection. In other words, the unity of its life does not admit of its suffering simultaneously, two general similar derangements, and it is necessary that the present dynamic affection (the disease) should cease as soon as a second dynamic power (the medicine), more capable of modifying it, acts upon it and excites symptoms having much analogy with those of the other. Something corresponding to this takes place in the human mind."

To be continued.

*A Concise View of the System of Homœopathy, and Refutation of the Objections commonly brought forward against it.*

Published by the Irish Homœopathic Society; pp. 264: octavo. Dublin, 1845.

This is the best written work of the kind we ever read. It is adapted to the laity as well as to the profession. A few copies have been received by Mr. Radde, 322 Broadway. Price \$1 00.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I.

New-York, Saturday, September 19, 1846.

NO. 11.

DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

**J. H. Tobitt, Printer,**

*No. 9 Spruce-street, New-York.*

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 592 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 Broadway.

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New-York, Saturday, Sept. 19, 1846.

### AGENTS.

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HOMŒOPATHY THE ONLY TRUE PRINCIPLE IN  
THERAPEUTICS.

Continued.

"Experience, simply, in the use of drugs, is not a sufficient guide, *because the results of such use are not satisfactory.*"

A want of fixed and reliable principles in therapeutics, has long been felt, and is now openly and candidly avowed by the medical profession. Dr. Forbes, in his Review, remarks,—“What, indeed, is the history of medicine but a history of perpetual changes in the opinions and practice of its professors, respecting the very same subjects—the nature and treatment of diseases? And, amid all these changes, often extreme and directly opposed to one another, do we not find these very diseases, the subject of them remaining (with some exceptions), still the same in their progress and general event? Sometimes, no doubt, we observe changes in the character and event, obviously depending on the change in the treatment,—and, alas! *as often for the worse as for the better.*”

No mind capable of appreciating truth, and competent to distinguish and comprehend principles in science, but that would feel a lessening of his professional pride, and that consciousness of dignity and moral superiority, which truth and science always confer, by the reflection that he has no other principle to guide him in his therapeutics, other than that derived from the empirical knowledge of drugs, and which cannot be satisfactory; for what has answered in one case, under certain circumstances and peculiar influences, is not likely to happen in other cases, under other circumstances, and the existence of other influences; and even what has happened in one case, is not sure to happen in a similar case, owing to concealed morbid causes, or peculiar susceptibilities, which the empiric has no means of detecting, and of which he could make no use, if he did. So that the art could not, in the very nature of the means for applying it, be satisfactory.—lacking as it does any general or fundamental law or principle, and based only on an experimental knowledge of



therapeutic agents—the perfection of empiricism.

The experimental use of drugs is unsatisfactory *because it has failed to improve the healing art*. It has rather embarrassed and deteriorated it. In its departure from the simple rules of Hippocrates; and in its unlimited multiplicity of therapeutic agents, its admixture of the most violent substances, its presumptuous administration of the most *heroic* remedies, in heroic doses, it has served to multiply diseases, aggravate diseased conditions, increase the rates of mortality, and to bring the whole art into disrepute with the people, and has secured for it the disgust and contempt of the more intelligent and comprehensive minds of the profession.

While the other branches of medical science have made rapid and great advances and improvement, the reverse has been true of therapeutics. With the increase of the knowledge and effects of disease, the means to eradicate and to cure have not been developed.

On this subject Dr. Forbes remarks,—“We doubt, if we should greatly, if at all, exceed the bounds of truth, if we said, that the progress of therapeutics, during all the centuries that have elapsed since the days of Hippocrates, has been less than that achieved in the elementary sciences of medicine, during the last fifty years. This department of medicine must, indeed, be considered in its merest infancy.

It would, doubtless, be going far beyond the truth to assert, that there is no certainty in medicinal therapeutics, and that the whole practice of medicine, in as far as this consists in the administration of drugs, is a system of traditional routine and conventionalism, haphazard and guess work; but it is not going much beyond the truth, to assert, that *much* of it is so.”

But the experimental use of drugs is *unsatisfactory in its results*—its competency to cure disease. The comparative rates of mortality in the same class of diseases, have not been diminished. The rates of mortality in countries abounding in physicians, are said to be greater than in countries where they have none. So that the evidence that medicine (therapeutics) has accomplished any thing towards the mitigation of diseases, or in decreasing their virulence and mortality, is altogether questionable. That large class of hospital patients, suffering from every variety and form of chronic disease, has not been lessened. They may be seen in crowds as formidable, with looks as forlorn and

hopeless, countenances as haggard, and with all the marks of victims, to incurable maladies, undergoing the sure and slow process of devitalization, as in years and centuries past. He who has seen a hospital group a quarter, a half, or a whole century back, may have the picture vividly re-impressed upon his mind, by a visit to any one of our hospitals of the present day.

The curative influence of no remedial agent, or any class of remedial agents, have been established. The same writer remarks,—“The uncertainty of practical medicine generally, and the utter insufficiency of the ordinary evidence to establish the efficacy of many of our remedies, has been almost always attained to by philosophical physicians of experience in the course of long practice, and has resulted, in general, in a mild, tentative, or expectant mode of practice in their old age, whatever may have been the vigorous or heroic doings of their youth.

“Who, among us, in fact, of any considerable experience, and who has thought somewhat, as well as prescribed, but is ready to admit, that, in a large proportion of cases he treats, whether his practice, in individual instances, be directed by precept and example, by theory, by observation, by experience, by habit, by accident, or by whatsoever principle of action, he has no positive proof, or rather no proof whatever, often, indeed, very little probability, that the remedies administered by him exert any beneficial influence over the disease?”

To be continued.

## HOMŒOPATHY DISAPPROVES OF BLEEDING.

Concluded.

3. *Because it is disadvantageous and injurious in regard to disease itself.* In all cases of disease, whether acute or chronic, wherein the circulation is in any way deranged, such derangement is not owing to an actual increase of the quantity of the blood, but like other symptoms, to a morbid case, which ought to be neutralized by suitable remedies. A mere mechanical evacuation of the blood cannot have a direct curative effect, because it cannot remove the morbid cause of the disorder; but it is at best only an indirect palliative mode of treatment, in so far as it may relieve the urgency of the symptoms. But when we consider the effects of bleeding—

A. In acute disease, and among them in such as are said above all to require bleeding,



namely, inflammatory fevers, inflammations and congestions, we find,

*a. That bleeding has not always that palliative effect, or has it only for a short time.*—Although its primary effect is to reduce suddenly the action of the heart, yet its secondary, and one which too frequently follows, is a state of reaction, a great increase of vascular excitement which is very often mistaken for an increase of the disease, and is treated accordingly by repeating the bleeding. How injurious and often fatal this very common mistake, which is of daily occurrence among the less observing portion of medical practitioners, proves in its consequences, shall be mentioned below. We shall here quote the very sensible remarks of Dr. Copeland on this subject; he says, "In cases of excitement, where the vital and nervous power is not depressed and the blood itself rich or healthy, reaction generally follows each large depletion, and thus often exacerbates or brings back the disease for which it was employed, and which had been relieved by the primary effects of the evacuation. This is more remarkably the case in acute inflammations of internal viscera, particularly of the brain or its membranes. Thus, every observing practitioner must have noticed, that a large depletion, when carried to deliquium, will have entirely removed the symptoms of acute inflammation when the patient has recovered consciousness, and that he expresses the utmost relief. But it generally happens, that the inordinate depression, the very full syncope, that is thought essential to the securing of advantage from the depletion, is followed by an equally excessive degree of vascular reaction, with which all the symptoms of inflammation return; and the general reaction is ascribed entirely, but erroneously, to the return of the inflammation, instead of the latter being imputed to the former, which has rekindled or exasperated it when beginning to subside. The consequence is, that another very large depletion is again prescribed for its removal; and the patient, recollecting the relief it temporarily afforded him, readily consents. Blood is taken to full syncope—again relief is felt—again reaction returns—and again the local symptoms are reproduced: and thus, large depletion, full syncope, reaction, and the supervention on the original malady of some or all of the phenomena described above, as the consequence of excessive loss of blood, are brought before the practitioner, and he is astonished at the obstinacy, course and

termination of the disease, which, under such circumstances, generally ends in dropsical effusion in the cavity in which the effected organ is lodged, or in convulsions, or in delirium running into coma; or in death either from exhaustion or from one of the foregoing states; or, more fortunately, in partial subsidence of the original malady and protracted convalescence. Such are the consequences which but too often result—which I have seen on numerous occasions to result, when blood letting has been looked upon as the only or chief means of cure—the 'sheet anchor' of treatment as it has too frequently been called and considered during the last twenty years."

*b. That bleeding in acute disorders frequently interferes with the radical cure of the disease, creates new complications, and induces a long convalescence.*—These too frequent consequences of bleeding are particularly conspicuous in inflammatory fevers, inflammations, and congestions of the internal viscera. The urgent symptoms may be diminished in intensity, but the morbid cause not being neutralized by bleeding, the disease itself is generally only reduced to a certain point; and vital power being then too much exhausted to terminate the whole morbid process, it frequently remains on that point in a chronic form, although the patient may recover from the acute disease itself; a termination which may be looked upon as comparatively fortunate, when it is considered how often these disorders end fatally through exhaustion induced by injudicious bleeding. Thus we frequently see chronic catarrh remain after acute inflammation or congestion of the brain; chronic irritation of the coats of the stomach after acute inflammation of that organ; chronic costiveness or relaxation of the bowels after acute inflammation of the abdomen; chronic liver complaint after acute hepatitis, etc. In inflammatory fevers, in which the above mentioned reaction of the vascular system after bleeding is particularly manifest and which generally follow a certain regular course in spite of medical treatment, we often observe, that after sanguine depletions the inflammatory disorder changes into one of a nervous, typhoid character, from which recovery is long and precarious. There is no doubt that many patients die of primary or consecutive typhoid fever in consequence of their strength having been too much exhausted in the beginning by the improper abstraction of the vital fluid, and by other weakening measures; an exhaustion which neither brandy,



nor wine, nor any other of the multifarious stimulants, then resorted to, can ever repair. The same frequently happens in acute inflammations of any of the internal viscera. The pulse, in consequence of repeated bleeding, often suddenly sinks, becomes small, wiry, contracted, and yet the inflammation is not subdued, and further bleeding cannot be ventured upon. If such cases terminate fatally, as they too frequently do, we may fairly assert that the patient died in consequence of bleeding, and not of the disease. There is no doubt, and the success of Homœopathy in acute diseases sufficiently proves it, that if bleeding was altogether banished from medical practice, the common ideas of the danger of acute diseases would be materially altered. With regard to convalescence, those who have seen patients recover from severe acute diseases, which have been under homœopathic treatment, must have been struck with the rapidity with which the patient generally recovers his strength and former health. The cause of this is not only that the disease has been thoroughly subdued by specific remedies, adapted to the individual case, but also that the patient has not been artificially weakened by bleeding, blistering, and similar measures. It is on the other side a well known fact, and one of every day's occurrence, that recovery after acute diseases, which have been treated by Allopathy, is both protracted and precarious, and often more dangerous than the original disease, owing to the disorder not being radically subdued or the patient being exhausted in consequence of previous bleeding and other debilitating remedial measures.

*c. That bleeding renders the patient very liable to a return of the same complaint.*—This is particularly the case when the patient is treated with local bleeding, namely, leeching or cupping, for irritation, inflammation, or congestion of a particular organ. Every organ has its own characteristic share of vitality, and local bleeding more than anything else weakens the organ thus treated in such a peculiar manner, that it remains for a long time, sometimes for the rest of the patient's life, a weak point and unable to resist the reappearance of similar affections upon slight causes. Thus, we see patients who have been bled, leeched, or cupped for an attack of the headache, tendency of blood to the head, inflammation of the eyes, sore throat, croup, bronchial catarrh, inflammation of the lungs and other viscera, rheumatism, piles, suppressed menses, &c. &c.,

extremely liable to be attacked, upon comparatively trifling causes, by the same complaint, which has been treated by local depletion. It is then extremely difficult to avoid having again recourse to the same palliative means, in proportion to the frequency of the return of the complaint, general and local bleeding becomes more and more urgent and difficult to avoid, to the manifest detriment of the patient.

*d. That bleeding in acute cases becomes the indirect cause of many chronic disorders.*—It has been mentioned that bleeding is at best an indirect palliative mode of treatment, inasmuch as it may relieve the urgency of the symptoms; but that it cannot subdue and neutralize the morbid cause upon which the derangement of the circulation depends. When, after the symptoms have been reduced by depletion to a certain point, there is sufficient vital energy left for the purpose, the disorder may be overcome radically; but if such is not the case, as it too frequently happens, then the acute disorder may either simply assume a chronic form, or give rise to chronic complaints of an altogether different character, in consequence of vital power being too much exhausted to terminate the acute morbid process completely. Thus we see acute inflammation of the eyes, throat, bronchia, lungs, stomach, liver, bowels or of any other organ, acute rheumatism, congestion of blood to the head, lungs, heart, &c., take a chronic character in consequence of bleeding having been resorted to for the cure of the acute form. Thus also we observe supuration, induration and enlargement, particularly in glandular organs, effusion of water and lymph, particularly in inflammations of serous membranes, atrophy, consumption, &c., as the consequence of general or local weakness induced by previous bleeding in acute diseases. When there exists a hereditary or otherwise acquired predisposition to certain chronic disorders, bleeding is particularly dangerous on account of its weakening effects, and such disorders often develop themselves in their whole extent, when a more cautious treatment might have obviated such consequences. To adduce only one kind of disease, let us mention pulmonary consumption. Persons of consumptive habit or hereditary predisposition to that disorder, are notoriously very liable to acute irritation and inflammation of the organs of respiration, which require a most cautious treatment. If such cases are treated by local or general bleeding and other



weakening measures, the patient becomes more and more liable to a return of the affections, or the acute form easily takes a chronic character, or the whole destructive disease makes its fatal appearance at once or in a short space of time. There is no physician of any experience, who has not had in his own practice cases confirmatory of this assertion; and there is no doubt whatever, that thousands are hurried every year to a premature grave by consumption, who might have lived for many years in tolerable health, if the development of the disorder had not been induced by bleeding and blistering for an acute attack on the chest.

B. If we consider the effects of bleeding in *chronic disorders* we find, that in no case whatever does bleeding, general or local, lead to a radical cure; but is at the very best nothing but the merest palliative, and as all palliatives in chronic disorders are followed by a final reaction for the worse, so does bleeding, in such cases, (owing to a positive reduction of vital power, which in chronic cases is naturally much less active and energetic in the organs affected, than in acute disease,) either increase the complaint in the end or at least confirms it and makes a radical cure much more difficult; or it induces other more dangerous and frequently fatal complaints. Let us illustrate this assertion by some examples: bleeding and leeching are frequently resorted to for chronic headache, and what are the consequences? It is in the first place, exceedingly rare that bleeding or leeching for such a complaint gives even temporary relief, in spite of the repetition of venesection and of the application of large numbers of leeches. But suppose even that it has a temporary relieving effect, does that effect last, or does it contribute to eradicate the disorder? No; on the contrary, it makes the intervals between the attacks shorter and shorter, renders the latter more violent and obstinate, and generally ends in inducing other additional complaints which the patient had not before, such as constant giddiness, weakness of the eyes, numbness in the limbs, derangement of menses, permanent weakness, apoplexy, paralytic affections, loss of memory, &c. Another instance: persons of consumptive habits, or those who labor under incipient consumption are, as has been stated before, exceedingly liable to slight inflammatory attacks of the organs of respiration, which are so easily subdued by homœopathic treatment, and so frequently acted against with local and gene-

ral bleeding by the allœopathic school. Does the abstraction of the vital fluid contribute to a radical cure, or does it even diminish the liability to such attacks? No; on the contrary it increases that liability to a very great degree, favors the full development of the disorder, and in cases of confirmed consumption, hastens its fatal issue. In cases of suppression of the menses, bleeding, general and local, may, through its revulsive effects on the vascular system induce their appearance for once or several times; but it afterwards confirms that functional derangement, and, if frequently repeated, is apt to produce chlorosis, hysteria, palpitations and other nervous disorders; or should it even succeed in re-establishing the regular return of that function, it has not succeeded in eradicating the morbid cause which first produced the derangement and will afterwards manifest itself in some other shape. In chronic inflammation of the liver, bleeding and leeching may give temporary relief; but if often repeated is sure to produce enlargement inflammation or suppuration of that organ, total derangement of the digestive functions, abdominal dropsy, &c. And in the same manner in every other chronic disorder bleeding acts at best only as a palliative; it makes the patient much more liable, after a temporary relief, to a return of the symptoms which it was intended to cure or to relieve, and is one of the worst palliatives imaginable. It frequently induces other chronic disorders not previously existing, and may thus sometimes indirectly cause the disappearance of the original symptoms, but this we hold, is not an advantage to the patient. If our space allowed it, we could more fully prove our assertions; but we shall dismiss the subject for the present to return to it at a future time. It is surprising to every attentive observer, how the medical profession can continue practising a method of cure, the benefits of which are so precarious and the injurious effects effects so numerous and manifest. [Concise View, &c.]

For the Am. Jour. of Homœopathy.

#### 'EXTRACTS FROM MEDICAL CORRESPONDENCE,' &c.

Messrs. Editors,—Having just finished the perusal of 'Extracts from Correspondence,' published in the July number of Dr. Forbes' British and Foreign Medical Review, we cannot forbear a few remarks suggested by the contents of said 'Correspondence.'

It may be necessary for the information of



some of your readers, to observe that, when Dr. Forbes published his famous paper, 'Allœopathy, Homœopathy, and Young Physic,' he sent it to many of his friends, asking their opinion of its merits. The correspondence we are now noticing is the result of that request.

The writers agree, in a marvellous manner, in very many particulars, and seem more especially amazed at the boldness of Dr. Forbes, in having been the first to declare not only the futility of Allœopathy, but the positive injury inflicted upon a moiety of the sick by that now confessedly wretched mode of practice; and for which avowal they bestow upon him unqualified and extravagant praise. Supposing any of these writers to have had satisfactory evidence of the truth of Homœopathy; could it be expected, that, after so long a concealment of the false, they would, in the present condition of the medical world, have the courage or magnanimity to declare what is true. We think the unprejudiced, with ourselves, will exclaim, 'Certainly not!'

A prevailing feature of these authors is the hopelessness and helplessness of the situation in which allœopathy has placed them; a few passages from different letters exhibit this: 'It is no trifling matter for a beginner to be cast upon the sea of doubt, without a sure beacon to steer his skiff by,'—'I think you must *go on*; if you or some one else does not *go on* in this direction, medicine is, I think, in danger of being utterly prostrated as a science and as a profession, and must inevitably descend lower and lower,'—'With regard to your proposed reformation of physic practical in contradistinction to physic political, I hardly know how to begin.'

'Summing itself up in the complaint of the Ephesian of old, "Sirs, our craft is in danger."'

'As to chronic diseases, I almost despair of anything very definite being ever known respecting the true value of curative proceedings in most of them, because of the great length of time which the experiment would extend in very many of them.' What an iniquitous avowal! Let the writer of such a sentiment read the works of Hahnemann and his fellow laborers, and wonder at and admire the patience and perseverance, unparalleled in the history of science, through a long series of years, during which they subjected themselves to pain, privation, and danger, till they obtained that precise knowledge which the superficial acquire-

ments of this doubting writer, despairs of being able to accomplish.

Again, 'at all events, get a starting point whence we may go on without commencing absolutely *de novo*.'

'What should we be at? I am at a great loss to say in what direction the reform is to begin, for this simple reason: that, though we have no right grounds for rejecting *in toto* the accumulated observations of past times, still the very foundation of our fabric requires investigation and thorough repair: and where are the minds to be found to do this? Where is the simple love of truth to be found, which shall rightly and justly discriminate between fact and fiction, between truth and error, between prejudice and observation. Find your man or men who shall be both capable and willing to undertake such an investigation, when so many and powerful temptations are against them. Then comes the almost more difficult questions, Where is to be the field of their observation? Private practice never could afford it; and where is the hospital which would be sufficient as the theatre of experiments, the utility and real benefit of which to the patients themselves and to the public, would be too remote and uncertain to be appreciated by the latter, or allowed by the former? I despair entirely of any general plan of co-operation where the laborers are so generally, almost universally, unfitted for such a species of investigation.' Now all this which the writer considers such a Herculean task, and verily it is, the school of Homœopathy is striving to attain, and to the immense amount which it has already effected is to be attributed its wonderful and brilliant success.

The letters, without an exception, denounce allœopathy in the strongest terms, the language in many of them exceeding that of Forbes himself.

In their utter despair some of them think that all attempts to cure disease had best be left alone, and the efforts of the physician be directed to hygiene. I regret we have not the names of these gentlemen, especially 'nothing like having an anchor to windward,' as the seaman said. Fearful of ever being able to practice Homœopathy, and feeling the almost certain presentiment of their services not being much longer needed as allœopaths, they would impress upon the community the importance of visits during a state of health, that advice may be given how to keep well! Let these persons turn their attention to modern politics; they



could not fail of success. We admit, nevertheless, an inferior degree of moral delinquency in such visits, than in those they make as allœopaths, with their present opinions.

Another writer recommends a different course of studies for a medical education, that works 'such as Bacon, Locke, Paley, &c.,' be added to the usual requirements.

The profound reverence which has heretofore been professed for antiquity, for the long vista of two thousand years, of which we have again and again heard, and the confidence resting thereon, no longer continue. Allœopaths may now be compared to the crew of a vessel who have sought preservation from shipwreck upon a desolate island, having been compelled to abandon the ship—finding, from her rottenness, she must inevitably be lost. Persons thus circumstanced generally excite pity and commiseration; but the conduct of these woe-begone individuals forbids the indulgence of sympathy; sullen, envious, and obstinate, they refuse the friendly hands stretched out for their relief, from the new and scientifically constructed vessel, which, through turmoil, prejudices, and an host of obstacles, is now safely and triumphantly sailing, guided by the bright star of Homœopathy—a sparkling and unerring guide, which, like truth itself, is found engraven throughout the wide universe

'On ocean, earth, and sky.'

An American correspondent writes: 'The article has created quite a sensation, and knowing well that it could be laid hold of by the Homœopathists, and garbled as it has been, I was myself anxious that it should be reprinted in full, so that no permanent misrepresentation might exist.'

The agony that prompted to such 'hot haste' was entirely superfluous. The Homœopathists have been quite satisfied with the production in its original garb, which is proved by their republication of a large edition without omission or alteration.

This writer also, like most other allœopaths, displays that malignity of feeling which is ever striving, in its unprincipled and unchristian-like spirit to cast the opprobrium of misrepresentation and disingenuousness upon those who differ with them in opinion and practice, very many of whom are more respectable, talented, and learned than themselves.

To the reformed system, whatever that may be, for as yet it is *in nubibus*, the appellation 'Young Physic' is somewhat offensive. One of these distinguished epistolary writers con-

siders it a 'nickname,' and says, 'We are all against the young giant being called "Young Physic;" he must not be *nicknamed*, and by his own father too! We have got the *thing*; the name will come in due time.'

Have you? Well, then, ye *savans*, hold on to it, and let the world know soon what it is. Depend upon it, there are many watchful and intelligent eyes overlooking your movements. Don't pilfer from Homœopathy, which you are now so frequently doing, and in no very moderate measure either. How you have it, and where you got it, and when you got it, unless from that very source from which you shrink with such undisguised horror, is rather a paradox, considering the destitute and forlorn condition in which we have just shown you represent yourselves.

Your numerous appropriations without acknowledgment from our science, have been again and again detected and exposed, and, you may depend on it, always will be, and thereby, with your acknowledged grievous trials, will have to suffer likewise the punishment of the law.

The false position in which Dr. Forbes endeavored to place some of the essentials of Homœopathy were easily recognized by those acquainted with its doctrines and mode of practice, and could have deceived the superficial or ignorant only. But there are some facts so plainly set forth in almost every subject that any attempt to distort or falsify them is not only bad policy, but exhibits a spirit of unfairness and littleness of mind which cannot fail to elicit contempt. Dr. Forbes knew perfectly well that Dr. Henderson's doses in the latter gentleman's published cases were what is termed infinitesimal, and that their strength is given, averaging, perhaps, the eighth attenuation, or ten thousand billionths; yet one of these truth loving writers ventures the assertion, and Dr. Forbes, by publishing, endorses it, 'that Henderson's Homœopathy is certainly not Hahnemann's. His lower dilutions are very little weaker than those now employed by many of *our* way of thinking and prescribing.'

Indeed! then, sir, if you have not hazarded a misstatement which is easily ascertained by an appeal to Doctor Henderson's book, you and your friends of *our* way of prescribing are Homœopaths, so far as the dose is concerned, and no further, for the context of your letter shows that you are altogether ignorant of the true meaning of the principle '*similia similia*



bus;' and hence that 'our way of prescribing' you had much better let alone.

How child-like and futile has this continued opposition become? Men of acknowledged respectability and acquirements, quite competent to form correct opinions from the observation of facts, announce a new principle, and prove it by 'ten thousand twice ten thousand' experiments—more than is even demanded for the establishment of any other scientific truth, yet its reception is not only refused, but it is assailed with the bitterness of unmitigated hate. Another evidence of that singular infirmity of the human intellect of which history affords numerous examples.

One of England's most distinguished modern poets somewhere says, that experience should be like a lantern placed at the bow of a boat, but the self-sufficiency and prejudices of men most frequently hang it on the stern.

False reputation, error, deception, and in these later days of busy competition, the love of money, must alike yield to the magic wand of truth. The struggle may be, as it often has been, long and fierce, but the result is certain; and how often do the means intended for its destruction prove the instruments of its triumph.

The works of infidel writers have contributed very materially to substantiate the truths of Holy Writ; and these letters, insignificant as they really are in themselves, may go far to hasten the downfall of the crude and antiquated system of allœopathy, whose reputation and celebrity these writers, with evident disappointment and dismay, confess to be crumbling in the dust. H.

August 20, 1846.

CARLISLE, PA. Aug. 24, 1846.

Drs. Kirby and Snow.

As it may be interesting to some of your readers to know what trials have been made with the higher potencies in this country, and what the results of said trials have been, I shall from time to time give publicity to such as I have made; with the view to induce more of the profession to do the same.

It is more than four months, since I have used the higher potencies (200—2000) of about 150 remedies exclusively in my practice. It was with considerable timidity that I first commenced to use them, beginning with slight cases, but I was soon convinced that I could rely upon them, and came at present to the following conclusions.

1. That the medicinal virtues of drugs are more developed in the higher potencies.

2. That we can cure diseases with the higher potencies that would not yield to the lower ones.

3. That we can use them successfully not only in chronic diseases, as has been acknowledged by some, but that in acute diseases we will find them answering the most sanguine expectations, far surpassing the effects of the lower potencies.

4. That a repetition of the same remedy in the same attenuation is but seldom admissible and (if ever) only at long intervals.

Case 1. A young gentleman (aged 19) who had frequent attacks of bilious fevers, and had as a matter of course taken large quantities of calomel &c., complained of sore throat. I found the following symptoms. He had not been able to swallow anything for the last 36 hours; throat is considerably inflamed; very offensive smell out of the throat; small ulcers on the tonsils, great pain when touching the throat and neck; face and eyes look yellow; face swollen especially around the eyes, accumulation of saliva in the mouth;—no sleep; he took Lachesis 800 in the morning. At noon he was able to eat some dinner and was well next day.

Case 2. A child five months old was found under the following circumstances.—Excoriation of the skin around the neck, under the arms, between the legs; dry pimples on the head;—the soles of the feet are full of small but hard nodosities. The excoriations are highly inflamed and discharge a great deal. The usual means to dry these excoriations up, had been tried but fortunately for the child, in vain. I gave it the second day after my visit, one dose of sulphur 400; next day the inflammation and discharge considerably worse, but afterwards the child improved and in three weeks, no marks of the excoriation or eruption on the head remained, the nodosities on his feet disappeared, when at the end of the third week the skin of the whole body scaled off.

Case 3. A gentleman (aged 50) had been troubled with *Otalgia* from a cold; had taken himself Pulsatilla 12, and for the subsequent discharge from the ear Mercurius vivus 12, the discharge had ceased about a fortnight afterwards. He now complained of dryness in the right ear, it feels as if the right ear was obstructed; hears but very little, which is more troublesome as he has but the hearing in his left ear from his childhood. Petroleum and

Nitric acidum had not relieved the patient any. By close examination of the case I found the corresponding symptoms under Lachesis. It was one of the first cases in which I used the higher potencies. I gave the patient one dose of Lachesis, 800 next day the symptoms increased in intensity but soon became better and his hearing became normal again in about a week without the use of any other remedies.

*Case 4.* A young gentleman (aged 24) complained of headache from cold, the right side is principally affected, worse in the morning, and at that time headache worse from cold water—none of teeth were decayed—costive habit—Gave him three doses of nux vom: 30, with the advice to use them as circumstances would require. He called some days afterwards and told me that he had felt a little better after each powder, but the pain now was worse than ever before. Gave him nux vom 300 one dose, very soon the pain left him and has not returned since.

*Case 5.* A child (aged 5½) was brought to me, his mother informs me that it often takes fits of screaming, lasting from half an hour to an hour, it cries often till convulsions break out; face red; sleeps very restless, abdomen enormously swollen; stools loose and greenish; she had given him a great deal of medicine. I gave the child one dose of Belladonna 400. In two days the child became quiet. In a week it passed a great many small worms. In the third week after it took the Bell, I saw the child again; found the swelling of the abdomen fast decreasing; all the functions regular; had passed a great many worms; and recovered afterwards without taking any more medicine.

*Case 6.* A lady (aged 40,) sent for me. She had been sick but a few hours, and had taken a few drops of camphor. I found her in bed, very restless; extremities and nose very cold; face bluish, very chilly, burning in the stomach, stools every fifteen minutes, watery and offensive; pulse small, 140 a minute; pains in the small of the back as if broken; great desire for cold water; extremely weak. I gave her one dose of arsenic 800. In about fifteen minutes afterwards the pulse became fuller, and increased for about four hours, when it was full and hard. Her restlessness and pain in the back increased, stools and pain in the stomach better. The skin became moist in a few hours,—she had to keep her bed for two days: she became still better and gained her

usual strength without taking another remedy. In this very acute case the effect of one dose of a high potency could be traced from beginning to end.

I have lately treated four cases of *Typhus cerebialis* with the higher potencies only. As cases of that kind are not so suitable for publication as different remedies had to be employed under different circumstances; suffice it to say, that all my patients recovered, and were able to set up the 22d day after the last chill, or after the beginning of the disease, and were able to resume their duties very shortly afterwards, with the exception of one case where a *pneumonia nervosa* made its appearance shortly after the apparent recovery which yielded to the proper remedies in a short time.

Respectfully yours,

AD: LIPPE M. D.

#### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

'The causes of disease are occasional or permanent.

'The permanent are those having their origin in known, or unknown, specific miasms, which, having once invaded the system, produce thereupon characteristic and permanent effects, and which, of their own accord, never leave it; they remain latent, and give rise to the various affections known as chronic, and which may be transmitted through successive generations, and which, in order to become eradicated, must have opposed to them, the specific action of drugs, known to produce similar affections.'

There is a large class of diseases, generally considered under the head of chronic affections, of whose origin and nature no satisfactory theory is known. We have seen that, save the derangements of the system growing out of bad habits of living, &c., all diseases originate in, or are caused by, a specific miasm, as that of small-pox, scarlatina, measles, intermittents, whooping-cough, syphilis, &c. As 'health is consequent upon the natural and undisturbed action of the vital power; and disease is the result of its disturbance,' it follows, that these chronic affections must have their origin in some morbid influence, of a dynamic character, or a specific and poisonous miasm. This being admitted, as of course it must be, it remains only to be determined, what may be the character of this miasm, and when, and under what circumstances, it invades the system.

In the ordinary speculations on this subject, the *cause* is often sought, in an *effect*, or one



effect is made to account for another, or a series of effects;—thus *phthisis* is attributed to functional or organic diseases of other organs; to depressing mental emotions; to hereditary predisposition; repelled cutaneous eruptions; healing up of old sores, &c.

Now it is sufficiently apparent, that these, in no wise, account for, or explain the cause of consumption; these difficulties must, each and all, have some cause, and of which they are only the effects. The functional and organic diseases of other organs; depressing mental emotions; cutaneous eruptions; predisposition, &c., must be referred to some cause, and have equal need of explanation.

Cutaneous eruptions are evidences enough of the existence of some latent virus, or miasm; and that their repercussion, from the injudicious and ill-advised prescriptions of the physician, or any other circumstance, should determine it to the lungs, and that the development of tubercles should be the consequence, is philosophical and reasonable enough to believe, and of which we shall have more to say; but the point of inquiry would be as to the cause of these cutaneous affections.

Hereditary predisposition also fails to exhibit the *prima causa*,—or the true cause. It is in fact but a sign, an effect of some other cause, to which the researches of the physiologist and philosopher should be directed.

Or if, indeed, it be a cause, then is it, in itself, a miasm, and should be spoken of as hereditary taint (miasm); and then the question would be as to what constituted this taint?—what is it in essence and character?—whence its origin? &c.

We might open at any page of our works on practice and find similar causes of disease, none of which go farther back than this predisposition;—which may be either hereditary or acquired, and which, in either case, is dependant upon some chronic miasm, which, having once invaded the system, never spontaneously leaves it; but requires for its expulsion, its proper and legitimate antidote,—a medicinal substance, which is known to produce similar affections.

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For the Amer. Jour. of Homœopathy.

### THE SPECIFIC OPERATION OF HYDROCYANIC, OR PRUSSIC ACID, IN DELIRIUM TREMENS.

—  
BY DR. WARE, OF NEW-YORK.  
—

This acid was discovered by Scheele, but we are indebted to Gay-Lussac for a know-

ledge of its nature and chemical properties. It is found in greater or less quantities in the leaves and blossoms of several stone fruits, particularly in the delicious peach. The peculiar flavor of the leaves and blossoms of the peach tree is owing to the presence of prussic acid; and their medicinal properties undoubtedly depend upon it.

Among the farmers of this country they are much used, in the form of a tea, for the cure of *nervous affections*; and in consequence of their containing prussic acid, they are well adapted to this class of difficulties; but I am inclined to believe if the *old ladies* knew that they had given *prussic acid* to their patients, they would be suddenly seized with fearful apprehensions, ending perhaps in nervous spasms.

The fact that prussic acid is one of the most subtle poisons known, has prevented it from being generally employed as a remedy in diseases. Its specific action on the system is prompt and certain, whether taken in a healthy or diseased condition. It destroys consciousness, and will cause death in a few seconds by inhalation, and, to all appearance, without suffering. It seems to produce a complete and immediate prostration of the vital power, and I am inclined to believe that its value as an antidote for disease, is but little known.

My own experience has proved it to be a valuable remedy in nervous diseases, particularly so in *delirium tremens*. Its quick and decisive action on the nerves gives it a superiority over every other medicine, and if judiciously administered, it seldom fails to give immediate relief.

I have no doubt that a close observation of its operation on the nervous system in health and disease, would lead to a great improvement in its use, and that it would be found a valuable remedy.

I will give one out of many cases of *delirium tremens* that have been cured by it.

Mr. H., a blacksmith, aged forty-five, had been ill for two weeks with a severe attack of *delirium tremens*, which did not yield to the usual mode of treatment, but increased in severity, until the patient was believed to be past the aid of any remedy. In this condition of the patient, I was called, for the first time, to see him, in counsel with his attending physician, I found him a raving maniac, and recommended a trial of the prussic acid. It was accordingly given,—one drop\* was mixed with a tea-

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\* Magendies.



spoonful of water, and put into his mouth, and ordered to be repeated every two hours until the delirium and spasms were removed. At the expiration of three hours, I saw the patient again—found him quiet and sane, with but a slight motion of the muscles, and free from suffering. Four hours after, visited him; he was then perfectly calm, and had taken some nourishment. The time of giving the medicine was then changed from every two to four hours, but the same quantity continued.

Under this treatment he soon recovered; and in four weeks from the time I first saw him, he was able to do a good day's work with the *hammer*.

In this case no other medicine was given after my first visit. His diet for the first six days was vegetable, after which he was put upon a mixture of animal and vegetable food, prepared in the most simple manner.

His near approach to the grave had such an effect upon him, that he did not drink any more spirits for two years. During that time he continued perfectly well, not one sick day occurring, until he yielded to the *temper*, and became a beast instead of a man.

Six months of drunkenness laid him on the bed, with his former disease fastened upon him. I was again sent for, and had the satisfaction of speedily restoring him to health by the use of prussic acid, administered in the same manner as in the first attack.

The antidote for prussic acid is cold water,—the bath is the most convenient, and indeed the best mode of application. But if the bath is not at hand, wrap the patient in a wet sheet as speedily as possible, including the head, but not the face. In a case where the individual has taken a very large dose, the application of water to the head, by means of a watering pot, is the best of all others, and must be continued until consciousness is restored.

#### SYMPHITUM OFFICINALE.

The Homœopathic Examiner for August contains a paper entitled 'Connection of Homœopathy with Surgery' by Croserio, translated by P. P. Wells M. D. It is there stated that 'Injuries of the bones are healed most promptly by *Symphitum officinale* 30 internally once a day. This remedy accelerates the consolidation of fractures surprisingly.' The translator adds a note as follows: 'I have had repeated opportunities of verifying this declaration of Croserio. A boy fourteen years old, broke the bones of the forearm, at the junction of the lower and

middle thirds two years ago. He had twice repeated the fracture by slight falls. The ends of the fragments are now slightly moveable on each other, and the arm is weak and admits of little use. Three doses of *Symphitum* effected a perfect cure.

The lad became more robust, and has since had better general health than ever before.

A boy, eight years old, fractured the humerus, near the junction of the condyles and shaft. *Arnica* 30 immediately arrested the spasmodic jerks of the muscles of the injured arm. This remedy was continued the first three days, when the traumatic fever had entirely subsided. He then had *symphit.* 3, gtt. i., in half a tumbler of water, a teaspoonful every morning and evening. The splints were removed the *ninth day*, and the bone was found consolidated. The cure was entirely without pain. How much earlier than this the fragments ceased to be moveable, is not known. Well may the author say it heals broken bones surprisingly. Let it be remembered that the discovery of this specific, is but one of the many rich fruits of *Hahnemannism*.'

#### THE NEW YORK DENTAL RECORDER.

Is the title of a new Monthly Periodical. It is published by Messrs. Jones White & Co., 263 Broadway, New York, and 273 Race St. Philadelphia. It is edited by J. S. Ware M. D. dentist, of this city.

The first No. contains several interesting articles, calculated to elevate and advance the dental art. In as far as diseases, and other affections of the teeth, and their treatment, relate to disease and medicine generally, so far is a knowledge of them important to the medical profession, and the public. That there is a more close connection, and relation between these, and other affections and diseases of the body, and that these more often seem to indicate their treatment, than has been supposed by the medical profession, the Recorder purposes to show. A more extended knowledge of all that relates to the health of the human system and the means of preserving it, is essential to its improvement and perfection. We quote from the Prospectus:

'The advancement of Science generally, and of the means for the happiness and improvement of the human race, have been such as to induce the closest attention to whatever may have a tendency to perfect the one, or to increase and to expand the other. It is thus that the properties or things, and the laws which



govern them, are continually being developed—forming the basis of new facts in science, and new principles in art. It is thus that the human system, with all its complications, relations and dependencies, is made the subject of philosophical investigation, till the causes, physical and moral, that pertain to it, are unfolded and understood—and the science of life, the means of health, the causes of disease, and the art of cure, are found to be established on *fixed and immutable* principles.

Commensurate with this advancement, especially in Chemistry and Therapeutics, has been that of the *Dental Art*—an art, but just beginning to be appreciated in its *bearings* and *relations* to the health of the constitution, causes of disease, and the obstacles to cure: to expose and illustrate which—to advance the interest of the profession—to defend and perfect the art—to *afford a channel of communications of facts, principles, and opinions to its professors*—is the object of the '*Dental Recorder*.'

'We propose to publish the '*Recorder*,' *monthly*—at One Dollar a year, *in advance*; and while we shall endeavor to make it useful to the profession, we shall also strive to make it interesting to the general reader, by showing the importance of *EARLY* and careful attention to the Diseases of the teeth, as connected with the production of or dependant upon other diseases, and the means of prevention—together with considerations of sound health.'

'While we hope to be sustained in this enterprise, we are quite sure that our art must be made instrumental in developing the principles, and making apparent the measures for the eradication of disease, and the *physical* and *moral improvement* of the human race.'

\* \* \* \* \*

'This Journal will be issued on the first of every month, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences, by sending their names to the Editor, 736 Broadway, New York; or to ASAHIEL JONES, general Agent, 263 Broadway.'

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**GENERAL AGENCY** of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's, Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jahr's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's *Materia Medica*, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

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The above Establishment being conducted upon entirely different principles from many others, furnishes the public with good opportunity of having work done on correct principles—without requiring exorbitant profits to feed hungry and numerous mortgages, &c. A steady business—small profits—and cash customers—are the peculiarities the Proprietor intends distinguishing HIS Office—and orders will continue to be attended to with the usual punctuality.

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I.

New-York, Saturday, October 3, 1846.

NO. 12.

DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

**J. H. Tobitt, Printer,**

*No. 9 Spruce-street, New-York.*

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 592 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

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New-York, Saturday, Oct. 3, 1846.

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### HOMŒOPATHY IS PROGRESSIVE.

It cannot be expected that the world would become converted to Homœopathy at once;—it will take time;—it will require a patient perseverance on the part of the friends of this system to disseminate a knowledge of it.

There are formidable difficulties to encounter, which, for some time to come, will seem almost insurmountable. The very smallest of these is the misrepresentations of the openly avowed enemies of Homœopathy. This kind of opposition is of little importance, for whoever can be influenced by it, would be of but little use in this or any other cause. But there are those 'who have stolen a livery from the court of Heaven to serve the devil in.' These proclaim themselves Homœopaths; but their practice belies them. These pursue what is called a mixed practice: we would prefer to designate it, a confused practice, for it is neither Homœopathy, allœopathy, nor 'Young Physic.' This class must be ranked among the opponents to Homœopathy. There is a property of Homœopathy which stamps it immutably true, which is, that a modification of it destroys it. Homœopathy stands up boldly, and says, '*Similia similibus curantur* is the law of cure,' and the dilution of drugs is essential to fit them to respond to this law. Ample experience of more than sixty years proves incontrovertibly that these two principles are in harmony with one another. And if kept together, they are competent to cure, speedily, safely, and pleasantly, all curable cases, which fact is now well established. Yet we deeply regret to be compelled to say, that there are those who think that Homœopathy is not adapted to all diseases or to some individual cases of disease: that these demand allœopathic treatment. We will not charge insincerity on those who thus think, yet most certainly they are wanting in a suitable knowledge of the resources of Homœopathy. Besides they do not seem to be aware that if what they assert be true, Homœopathy is false. Prove that diseases have been *cured* by the pretended principle 'contraries cured by contraries,' and it will show our system to be foundationless. For this reason, there cannot be



two laws of cure, especially if directly opposite to each other. If *similia similibus curantur* be a law, and if it be a law for the cure of diseases, then in this regard it is universal, and no exception can be admitted. If it be a law, (and who doubts it?) then it can be relied upon in all conditions of sickness, and if the drug is fitted by a suitable and known mode of preparation to respond to this law, then the cure is certain. The evidence to establish this is ample, being found in the experience of thousands in almost every part of the world. Is there sophistry here? We do not perceive it. What then is the position of those in relation to Homœopathy, who declare that they meet with peculiar cases of sickness, in which they deem it their duty to employ allœopathic means, and this too before any attempt whatever is made to treat them Homœopathically?

What then is the position of those in relation to Homœopathy who administer a drug hastily selected and inappropriate and fail in obtaining the curative effects, and then at once resort to allœopathy? These surely are not with us. We do not doubt their integrity; but they are not imbued with the spirit of Homœopathy.

Some there are who say they have not time to devote to the careful selection of the appropriate remedies. Then leave the profession. No one is at liberty, morally, to take charge of the sick if he has not the time to attend to them faithfully.

And this is the plea for employing allœopathy, is it? We have long known that the old school practice is well adapted to indolence in the physician. But the Homœopathic practice demands industry—constant labor—real study. Whoever, therefore, embraces Homœopathy, must become, if he is not already, a close student, in the strictest sense.

Now, although Homœopathy will progress and triumph, yet we must contend that it ought not to be retarded in its progressive march by the errors or indolence of its pretended friends.

#### POINTS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALLŒPATHIC AND HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE.

IN a practical science like medicine, which is so intimately connected with health, life, and happiness, any deviation from long established rules and practice ought to be the subject of mature consideration, and not to be lightly attempted, or carried into effect without potent reasons. Homœopathy being a very young doctrine in comparison with her older sister, and differing in so many essential points from

Allœopathy, has naturally excited a degree of doubt in the minds of most people; and the public, therefore, have a right to know from the advocates of that system, upon what ground they dissent from practices which have been sanctioned by ages. This very fair question we shall try to answer in a succinct manner, as far as the limited space of a pamphlet and the press of other matters will allow, reserving a full and detailed explanation for a future especial publication on the subject.

In the preceding pages the following points of difference have already been mentioned:—

1. Homœopathy is founded upon a law of nature, '*similia similibus curantur*,' the influence of which pervades the whole doctrine, and, being a sure guide in all cases of disease, insures a high degree of unity of opinion and practice amongst its followers.—Allœopathy has no such supreme law, and therefore does not offer the same degree of harmony of opinion and practice amongst its professors.

2. Homœopathy follows certain and fixed rules for the investigation of the effect of medicines on the human frame, and thereby arrives at a clear and distinct knowledge of such effects.—Allœopathy is defective in its methods of investigation, and therefore its knowledge of the pure effects of medicines is very limited and imperfect.

3. Homœopathy prescribes the use of only one single medicine at a time; it is therefore enabled to follow the effects of such medicine, whether good or bad, with a great degree of clearness and precision, and thus to arrive at pure observations, and, consequently, at sound experience.—Allœopathy habitually mixes together a number of active medicines, each of which has its own peculiar effects on the frame. The clearness and precision of the treatment is thus materially interfered with, and all endeavors to arrive at clear unmixed observations and sound experience are to a high degree frustrated.

4. Homœopathy prescribes its medicines in reduced doses, which are sufficiently strong beneficially to effect the body in diseases, and not large enough to do harm when improperly selected.—Allœopathy prescribes its medicines in doses more powerful than is requisite, and which, if incorrectly chosen, are apt to injure the patient, as daily experience proves.

5. Homœopathy maintains that every disease is a perfectly individual deviation from health and ought to be treated as such.—Allœopathy too frequently is influenced in the



treatment of diseases by the mere name of the disorder, and thus frequently treats in the same manner diseases which are essentially different.

6. Homœopathy attaches no practical importance to the investigation of the proximate cause of disease; the latter being utterly impenetrable to human understanding, the result of such investigation can never amount to more than conjecture: but it makes that which may be known, namely, the predisposing and exciting causes, and the totality of the symptoms in their most minute manifestation and mutual relation, its principal criterion for the mode of treatment.—Allœopathy considers the investigation of the proximate cause of disease as necessary for a scientific treatment, and thus leads to a proverbial divergency of opinion among its followers on the nature of diseases, and their appropriate treatment.

7. Homœopathy does not recognise the existence of merely local diseases, but maintains, that every disease, with perhaps a few trifling exceptions, is an affection of the whole organism; that, therefore, in order to arrive at a radical cure, diseases ought to be treated by remedial agents acting on the whole frame, and not by merely local means.—Allœopathy does recognise merely local diseases, and treating them, in consequence of this, frequently by exclusively local means, rarely arrives at a radical cure in such cases. This point shall be more fully explained in one of the following paragraphs.

8. Hahnemann's views differ essentially from those of the old school, with regard to the nature and treatment of chronic disorders. Daily experience shows, that Homœopathy cures a great number of such disorders radically, and daily experience shows that the effect of Allœopathy in similar cases scarcely ever amount to more than palliation, or transformation of one disorder into another; and that it rarely arrives at a radical cure, unless in cases where it acts unconsciously upon the homœopathic law. We may here remark, that the success in chronic diseases ought to be considered the principal criterion of the value of any system of practical medicine. For in these disorders the efforts of Nature alone are generally ineffectual, and the best she can accomplish by herself is occasionally to change one form of disorder to another. She thus sometimes seems to effect a cure by her own efforts, when she only changes its mode of manifestation, for in-

stance, at the different periods of evolution, where chronic disorders sometimes disappear, without being cured, only to re-appear sooner or later in the same or another, form. In this class of disorders, therefore medicine as an art ought to show its value, and its power of so directing, by remedial measures, the constant curative efforts of Nature, as to lead to the establishment of the healthy functions of all the organs. In acute diseases on the contrary, the proceedings of Nature alone are generally so instinctively right and effectual, that unless the constitution is naturally very unhealthy, or previously exhausted, or unless Nature is thrown off her right track by violent treatment, she generally proceeds through the different stages of the disease to a successful termination within a certain space of time. The experience of all ages and countries has shown, that, to say the least, an equal number of individuals recover from any kind of acute diseases, whether they are left to Nature alone or are put under the influence of medical treatment. The intrinsic merit of medicine (at least in its ordinary form) in the treatment of acute disorders is, therefore, strictly speaking, very limited and in many cases exceedingly doubtful; and when we take into consideration the unnecessarily violent measures so generally adopted in such disorders, we agree with Pereira, who says, 'We can hardly refuse our assent to the observation of the late Sir Gilbert Blane, that in many cases patients get well in spite of the means employed, and sometimes when the practitioner fancies he has made a great cure, we may fairly assume the patient to have made a happy escape.'

9. Homœopathy is, in the strictest philosophical sense, a *system* of practical medicine. It has one supreme principle from which all the different parts of the doctrine start as necessary consequences; these parts themselves are again in necessary relation to, and penetrate and vivify each other. This harmonious *ensemble* preserves the name of a system.—Allœopathy does not satisfy the logical postulates of a system.

Besides the points of difference mentioned, there are others on which Homœopathy is compelled to dissent from the allœopathic school; and, as they are directly connected with the every-day's practice of medicine itself, it is the bounden duty of its followers to lay their reasons of such dissent openly before the public.—*Concise View, &c.*



## HOMŒOPATHY THE ONLY TRUE PRINCIPLE IN THERAPEUTICS.

As we have shown, all the so-called principles in medicine (Therapeutics) heretofore relied upon, have been derived from a knowledge of drugs experimentally used;—that the healing art, with no other basis, is mere empiricism,—*legitimate quackery*;—that, in the very nature of things, knowledge thus obtained, could not reduce the art to a science, nor ever become satisfactory to scientific minds;—that the practice has made no advancement as an art, but, on the contrary, has retrograded; and that its success—its results, are not satisfactory.

All this, and more, is true, as we could distinctly make appear in the published avowals of numerous members of high standing and authority in the profession. The profession, as such, is, in fact, at this moment, confessedly without established principles. Without chart, compass, or star, to guide it, it is still at sea, after a voyage of 2500 years,—without sight of land, and with no prospect of making a safe and desired haven. In the utter desolation that surrounds them, and the speedy shipwreck of their craft, which has become inevitable, a faint cry from among the voyagers of 'Land, ho!' is heard,—it is but the rising cloud of thick darkness which is soon to overshadow them!

In the despair which has seized upon them, they dream and talk of new discoveries, to be made by a series of new experiments, but the *matron* so soon to bring forth the long looked-for 'Hercules,' is pregnant *only with their hopes*;—the fancied conception of the 'ancient mother,'—now struggling in death, amid the execrations of her victims, and to the great joy and relief of mankind, is a *false one*.

She is incapable of conceiving, or of giving birth to a legitimate son of Æsculapius. No legacy of value will she leave to coming generations. 'How can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit? Do men gather figs of thistles, or grapes of thorns?'

The fact is, that experimenting in therapeutics never can establish the art on a sure and permanent basis, and ensure for it safety, certainty, and success. It must have some law, some fundamental principle, which must, in the very nature of things exist—to distinguish and perfect it.

The collateral branches of medicine have such laws and principles, and are making constant and rapid improvement—without them therapeutics never can.

In a paper, 'on the recent progress and future prospects of practical medicine, by Elisha Bartlett, M. D., Professor of Medicine in the University of Maryland,' the professor says:—

'The history of practical medicine,\* especially, during the last twenty-five years, and a right appreciation of its character, and the conditions and means of its progress, furnish us with very positive assurance that many of its most important laws will gradually, but steadily and certainly, be carried forwards to their entire and final establishment. The foundations of many of these laws,—and of those, too, most difficult of determination,—have been already broadly and securely laid; and although many years must elapse, amidst earnest, unremitting, and conscientious toil, before these laws can be *definitively* and *fully* settled, it is not possible, in the nature of things, that we can be deceived, or disappointed, in this consummation, so devoutly to be wished. The minute and thorough study of diseases, in all their aspects, phases, and relationships, which is now prosecuted, with so much zeal and fidelity, cannot fail of leading to the result of which I have spoken. The great laws of pathology and its relations,—of etiology and therapeutics,—are sure to be ascertained.

\* \* \* \*

'After our knowledge of pathology, and our nosological diagnosis growing out of this, have reached their highest attainable point of accuracy and positiveness, there is still left an almost interminable field of investigation, in the study of the relationships between the morbid condition, thus ascertained, and the substances and agencies in nature, which can in any way effect or influence this condition. Let us look, for a single moment, at the extent and the complexity of these relationships. They are almost infinite. Look at any single disease, even of the simplest and best settled character; and let us suppose that all its elements, as far as this is possible, in the nature of things, have been accurately ascertained. Before our therapeutical knowledge of this disease can be said, in literal strictness, to be *complete*, we must know the effects and influences, which *all the substances and agencies in nature are capable of producing upon it*; and we can know this only by direct observation of the effects themselves. We must know how it will be modified by each and all of the different vegetable productions of the earth by each and all of the mineral substances, in their manifold forms of chemical combination; by changes of temperature, and other meteorological condi-

\* Medicine comprehends anatomy, physiology, pathology, surgery, obstetrics, materia medica, therapeutics, chemistry, &c.

Therapeutics is the art of understanding and administering remedies for diseases.

Practical medicine is synonymous with therapeutics.

Etiology—the history and causes of disease.



tions; by electricity; by light; by food; by drink; by exercise; by the state of the mind, and so on. The doctrine, thus stated, sanctions the constant introduction and trial of new remedies; since until any given substance is tried we do not and cannot know what properties of a remedial nature it may be endowed with.

\* \* \* \*

The seat, the character, the regular march, and the tendencies of the disease, having been first ascertained, *the next thing to be done is to find out the best methods of preventing, of modifying, and of curing it.* This is what many of the great pathologists of the present day are actively and zealously engaged in endeavoring to do. This is the great mission which now lies immediately before us; this is to constitute the great work of the next and succeeding generations.

'I should be doing great injustice to my subject, if I did not mention, as prominent amongst the therapeutical improvements of the last quarter of a century, the change which has been gradually taking place, in the use of violent and dangerous remedies. I am inclined to regard this change as one of the greatest blessings which modern medical observation has conferred upon the human race, and it is but fair to admit, that absurd as the *system of Homœopathy* is, and unsupported as its pretensions are, so far as its *peculiar treatment of disease* is concerned; it has, nevertheless, done great good *by its practice*,—its scrupulous adherence to a strict regimen, and its avoidance of all injurious remedies,—in the furtherance of this revolution. "It has been sarcastically said, that there is a wide difference between a good physician and a bad one, but a small difference between a good physician and no physician at all; by which it is meant to insinuate, that the mischievous officiousness of art does commonly counterbalance any benefit derivable from it." (*Sir Gilbert Blane.*) The conviction has been steadily gaining ground, and spreading itself abroad in the medical community, not only that heroic remedies, as they are called, are often productive of great mischief, and should never be lightly or questionably used; but that, in very many cases of disease, all *medicines*, using this word in its common signification, are evils; and that they may be dispensed with, not merely with negative safety, but to the actual benefit of the subjects.

\* \* \* \*

'It is melancholy to think what an enormous aggregate of suffering and calamity has been occasioned by a disregard of the axiom which I have quoted. Our means for the direct removal of disease are limited in extent, but it is not so with our power to augment and to cause it; this is unlimited. Difficult as it may be to cure, it is always easy to poison and to kill. We may well congratulate ourselves and society, that the primary and fundamental truths, of which I have been speaking are finding their right position, and producing their legitimate results; and that long abused humanity is likely, at no very remote period, to be finally delivered from the abominable atrocities of wholesale and indiscriminate drugging.

## HIGH POTENCIES.

—  
BY P. P. WELLS, M. D.  
—

Messrs. Editors,—

It was well said, of late, that 'scepticism is more a matter of feeling than of judgment.' In nothing is this more true than in the scepticism sometimes cherished and expressed in regard to the increased power to cure disease which we have found in the higher dynamizations of our remedies. I hear, and sometimes too from those who claim to be *Homœopathic physicians*, such declarations as 'I do not believe in them at all,' 'I have no confidence in them whatever,' &c. But whence have they this want of confidence? From the failure of these dynamizations to cure the sick in their practice, when they have been selected with careful observance of the directions in the *Organon*, and proper discrimination of differences and analogies in the effects of drugs? Has their want of confidence such an origin? Not at all. 'I have never tried them,' has been the almost invariable reply to the above question, from physicians, and 'I have never seen them tried,' from the laity. Is scepticism, in such cases a matter of judgment? Sirs, it is neither a matter of conscience or intellect. I confess, to my mind it has more the air of impudence than of either. When cases of both acute and chronic disease, which have not only resisted the appliances of the old school, but the ordinary means of the new, have been promptly and permanently *cured* by these dynamizations, and such cases have been reported in no small numbers, and met in practice in far greater, those who have cured and reported these cases are met with the above cool declaration of want of confidence! Is it not impudent? Look at the cases reported by Gross, Stapf, Boenning, Lausen, Tietz, and others. Have *such cases ever* been realized from the use of other means? Have these sceptics had greater success in the use of the means in which they *have* confidence? If so, is it too much to ask of them to report that success, with the same clearness and frankness which characterize the individuals named, that the profession and the world may come to a knowledge of the best means, and be made partakers of its benefits. Is this too much? The best means of curing the sick is what is wanted. It is confidently believed by *those who have tried* the high potencies that they are in the highest rank of the best means. The success which follow-



ed their use has produced this conviction, and when this success is reported and this conviction declared, both are met with—what?—calm attention and investigation? Is not the matter of sufficient importance to warrant an expectation of these? But no, sirs; “I have no confidence!” Is it not cool? Isn’t it an easy way to dispose of important matters? But in what is the want of confidence? In the *men* who have thus cured and published for the benefit of the profession, and of the world? No. But in the *means* by which they cured, and which these cured, and which these skeptics have never tried. The first would be too barefaced; the latter has a better seeming, but the impudence, though covered, is scarcely less offensive.

I will add a single case which occurred in my own practice, one of many which have given me a deep sense of the value of high potencies as remedial means. I propose hereafter to follow it with others as time and occasion may allow. The lady of a well known gentleman of business of your city, a resident in this, had been troubled three years with ulcers, scabs, and fissures in the right nostril, particularly at the angles. When these first appeared she resided in Boston, and there employed the best skill of the old school without the slightest effect to heal the sores. The trial was found to be a fruitless one, and was given up. She then applied to one of our most intelligent Homœopaths, who treated her with the ordinary attenuations, both high and low, with no better success. After her husband removed to this city, my attention was called to the case, and I found the nose red and somewhat swollen at its extremity, and the right nostril half filled with dry, hard, ragged, adherent scabs, of a light straw color: deep cracks at both angles of the nostril, excruciating pain, especially when touched. The patient had had repeated attacks of erysipelas on the face and scalp, with this exception her health was good. She had not taken medicine the last six months. I gave *Sulph. Calc. Carb. Nit. Ac. Ant. crud. graph. Phos. Sepia.*, at proper intervals and in attenuations high and low, with no better result than before. I gave up the case as incurable.

Now a few scabs and cracks, and some slight pains in the nose may be regarded as a trifle; but when they have been endured for two or three years, they may be found rather inconvenient, and, as in the present instance, the patient will naturally desire to be relieved

of them. About six months from the time I abandoned the case, I received the third part of the first volume of Stapf’s *Neues Archiv*, containing Dr. Gross’s “*Latest experience in Homœopathic practice*,” i. e. with the *highest dynamizations*. He declared he cured promptly and permanently cases which were either only palliated by the ordinary attenuations, or wholly unaffected by them. Why then might not the right remedy, thus attenuated, cure the case I had abandoned? I saw the patient, and stated the success which had followed the use of these attenuations, and proposed another trial and with the high potencies, the nature of which was explained to her. As she had not attained that exalted degree of wisdom which compels some to doubt truth and withhold “confidence” till every body else has found it out, she assented at once to the trial.

It will be remembered, she had already taken several medicines. The second was substituted for the first, not because there had been a change of symptoms calling for a change of remedy, but because the first had produced absolutely *no change*; and the second gave place to the third for the same reason, and no one of them affected the case in the slightest degree. It was neither better nor worse. I had no doubt in the beginning that *sulphur* was the remedy, and, in that belief, I gave it in the 30th and 3d attenuations, dry and dissolved; I repeated at short intervals, and waited weeks for a reaction I never saw, and then I gave grain doses of the 3d trituration 5-100: but all with no perceptible effect.

After the lapse of six months, I examined the case, and sulphur still appearing to be indicated, as before, I gave one globule of the 1530th attenuation, and now, for the first time, there was a sensible effect from the dose. It grew worse through the next five days, after which it began to improve and continued to grow better till about the expiration of about six weeks, when it came to a pause. The dose was repeated, i. e. one globule of the 1530th. The same aggravation, with subsequent amendment, followed as before. But the healing made little if any progress beyond that which resulted from the first dose. This repetition was a mistake in practice which I had not then learned. When improvement ceased after the second dose, she got *sepia*, one globule 1530th, which completed the cure.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 10th, 1846.



## LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

The comparatively few individuals who possess robust constitutions, and enjoy uninterrupted health, is a matter of deep interest, and worthy the profound investigation of the physician.

The vast multitude of chronic affections that afflict mankind must originate in causes as yet but little understood, and that heretofore have not been subject to any known laws or means of cure.

That man was constituted for the enjoyment of health, is sufficiently evident, and that, but for the existence, in his system, of some latent, morbid miasm, predisposing it to the influence of ordinary disturbing, or exciting causes of disease, the vital power would readily resist their influence, and he would rarely fall a prey to their attacks.

The ordinary exciting causes of disturbance and disease, are insufficient and inadequate to account for all the well marked differences in constitutions, morbid susceptibilities, and peculiar affections that distinguish individuals.

We notice certain individuals subject to peculiar affections.—On the existence of one class of exciting causes, they suffer in one way, and as these vary, there is a corresponding variance of their troubles. The slightest change in the atmosphere is the signal for the recurrence of some singular disorder, and the slightest neglect or departure from accustomed regimen, is followed by a never varying '*punishment*;' while others, exposed to the same influences, suffer in a far *different manner*, or are not at all disturbed by them.

Some, with apparent impunity, are exposed to all the vicissitudes of a varying atmosphere, brave all sorts of exposure, adopt any and every kind of regimen, indulge their appetites in every possible manner as to variety, quality, and quantity. We say, with *apparent* impunity, for that a long series of exposures, and a continued course of indulgence will gradually weaken the vital action; reduce its power to keep up the healthy tone of the system; and prematurely bring on the period of decay and death, is as certain as that effects follow causes.

There are others again, who, with all possible care and attention to a judicious system of diet, avoiding every species of exposure, and who guard themselves with the utmost care against the changes of weather, and of the seasons; who, in short, with the most scrupulous and persevering attention to every condi-

tion that should secure to themselves health and enjoyment, yet are never able to realize more than a trifling palliation of their sufferings. Do what they may, it is all in vain;—they are the same miserable sufferers—the prey of excited imaginations, desponding passions, and false hopes.

In vain they abridge their ordinary comforts and pleasures; resort to irksome and painful expedients; or fly from one experiment to another. Abandoned by their physicians, and given over to the refuges of quackery, they resort to one nostrum after another. Disappointed in the last '*remedy*,' which was '*sure* to cure,' they try another which is '*certain*' to do so, till, at last, they abandon all effort in despair, and submit to suffer what they have no hope of avoiding.

These affections must depend upon some cause of a specific and deep-seated character. In certain persons it has a tendency to affect particular organs, or tissues, constituting what is understood by *predisposition*. Thus some are predisposed to consumption; others, to scrofulous affections, rheumatism, dropsy, &c.; and when this predisposition exists the slightest exciting cause may serve to develop it. When this cause (or latent miasm) becomes strongly determined to, or fasten upon any organ, or set of organs, or tissues, we have a condition, known by name, as a particular disease, as phthisis, dyspepsia, and hæmorrhoids, &c.

Whatever condition may chance to exist, depends upon a variety of circumstances,—while the cause remains the same. To treat any existing condition as though it constituted the disease, while the cause remains in the system, must necessarily be unphilosophical, unscientific, and unsuccessful.

True art consists in the application of remedies, which, while they lessen morbid local actions, and allay irritable conditions, at the same time destroy, antidote, or remove from the system the *cause*, whatever its character may be.

## REPORTS OF CASES.

To the Homœopathic physician, reported cases can only be useful to accumulate evidence of the truth of the law of cure; the efficacy of attenuated drugs in small doses to cure disease; to furnish the student in homœopathy, with some slight information of conditions which indicate a particular drug; and if drawn up in a proper manner, furnish the mode of selecting the drug. We do not perceive any



other use to which reported cases can be employed by practitioners of our school. And with these objects in view, and these alone, we shall endeavor to furnish an ample supply. We do hope that no one will use reported cases of treatment as models of practice in other cases. This is one of the evils of the old school, and we have reason to believe that homœopathy is in some danger from this same source. We believe that Hahnemann had this view of the matter. He objected to the publication of cases, on account of the liability to employ them as models in other cases. Homœopathy requires that each case of sickness should be studied by itself, unconnected, and uninfluenced by any other case that may have had some, or many points of resemblance.

We do not know that Hahnemann ever caused to be published more than two cases, and the sole object was to illustrate the manner of selecting the remedy. They are as follows:

S—, a washerwoman, aged about forty, of a healthy constitution, had already been three weeks unable to work when she applied for medical assistance.

The symptoms were as follows: 1st, Lancinating pains in the pit of the stomach, proceeding from the left side after moving, or when she rose, especially when she made a false step.

2d, When lying she experienced no pain, neither in the side nor in the pit of the stomach.

3d, She could not sleep until three o'clock in the morning.

4th, She ate with pleasure, but after partaking of food, suffered from sickness.

5th, Rising of clear water, which seemed to flow into the mouth.

6th, After eating, efforts to vomit, but without result.

7th, Disposition violent, choleric; copious perspiration covered the body during the violent pains. Fifteen days before, she had menstruated naturally.

Otherwise healthy.

As regards symptom 1, belladonna and china occasion lancinating pain in the pit of the stomach, but neither excite them when the individual is only in motion, as in this case. Pulsatilla also produces them on making a false step, but rarely; and it causes neither the same gastric derangement indicated by the symptoms 4, 5, and 6, nor the same moral dispositions.

Bryonia alone occasions pains during movement, especially lancinating. It also produces prickings under the sternum when the arm is raised; and also the other sensations on making a false step.

Symptom 3 is furnished by several medicines and also by bryonia.

Symptom 4, sickness after eating belongs to several remedies, *ignatia*, *nux v.*, *mercurius*, *ferrum*, *belladonna*, *pulsatilla*, *cantharides*, but not constantly, and rarely accompanied with relish for food, as in the case from bryonia. With regard to symptom 5, several medicines produce rising of clear water, also bryonia; but they do not occasion the other symptoms constituting the disease. Bryonia is preferable to all in this respect.

Efforts to vomit after eating (symptom 6) are produced by few remedies; none occasions them more frequently, or so well marked, as bryonia.

Moral symptoms are one of the principal indications in disease, and as under this head bryonia produces phenomena analogous to that presented by the patient, together with the preceding symptoms, it was preferred to any other homœopathic remedy. A drop of the mother tincture of bryonia was given; in forty-eight hours the woman was cured, and returned to her work.

A pale sickly man, aged forty-two, who had long been engaged in sedentary occupations, after being five days ill applied for medical assistance.

1st, On the first evening, without any assignable cause, he had sickness, vertigo, swimming of the head, and frequent efforts to vomit. 2d, The following night, towards two o'clock, vomiting of sour matter. 3d, The following nights, violent efforts to vomit. 4th, The day of the visit, risings of a foetid, disagreeable taste. 5th, Sensation as if some indigestible substance lay on the stomach. 6th, Feeling of uneasiness in the head, attended with sensation of emptiness. 7th, The least noise annoyed him. 8th, Disposition mild and patient.

It may be remarked:—

1st, That some medicines occasion vertigo with sickness, for example *pulsatilla*, which causes also vertigo in the evening; a character of only a few substances.

2d, That *stramonium* and *nux v.* excite vomiting of a sour matter, and phlegm of an acid smell, but not during the night. *Valerian* and *cocculus* cause vomiting, but not of acid

matters. Ferrum alone produces vomiting of sour matters and at night, but not the other symptoms which must be taken into consideration. Pulsatilla not only excites vomiting of sour matter in the evening and during the night, but also the other symptoms presented by the patient.

3d, The efforts to vomit during the night are proper to this remedy.

4th, The sour, putrid, fœtid risings also belong to it.

5th, Many medicines occasion a sensation as if indigestible food were in the stomach, but none in so constant a manner as pulsatilla.

6th, This symptom is produced by pulsatilla, also by ignatia, but this latter has not the other symptoms.

7th, Pulsatilla occasions something similar to symptom 7, although the difficulty of supporting the least noise is proper also to ignatia and nux v.; these substances produce it in a minor degree, and do not give rise to the other symptoms.

8th, Pulsatilla corresponds to the disposition.

Pulsatilla 12, one drop was given; by next day the patient was quite well, and when observed, eight days after, continued to remain so.

### EXTRACT.

FROM A LETTER OF HAHNEMANN TO DR. STAFF.

*Leipzig, Dec. 17th, 1846*

DEAREST FRIEND.

\* \* \* \* \*

I thank you for the symptoms you sent me, many of them are very important. You must always strive to discover the exact expression for your sensations, and the changes in your sensations, as well as the conditions under which they are excited. My present scholars have a lighter task in this respect. Whenever they present me with such a list, I go through the symptoms along with them, and question them right and left, so as to complete, from their recollection, whatever requires to be more explicit, such as the time, conditions, &c., in which the changes were prescribed. But all this you must do for yourself; you must go through the written description in order to find what has yet to be reported. In this respect, yours is a harder task. From this strictness of mine for the promotion of the truth, you will perceive that your plan, although very well meant, is quite impracticable.

[An invitation to Physicians to assist in the proving of medicines.]

Which of your every-day colleagues would undertake such laborious experiments? when he can tap upon his well filled receipt book and say, 'Thou art my comfort; never can I be in doubt what to prescribe when I have thee at hand. It may go with my patients as it likes; I am quite safe.'

These receipts of the learned masters, as long as I prescribe them, no person can find fault with me.'

It would be in vain to elevate the views of such people. Even had we an eternity to expend upon them, they never would resolve on such careful experimentalism, since the common physician feels himself so comfortable without observing, in the easy following of others, in quoting 'authority' for every thing, in speculating and assuming. Ah, no, dismiss all such hopes. Such resolutions are not to be expected from such people. And what would the accomplishment of their attempt be, suppose they made an attempt out of curiosity. Deceptions, imaginative stuff, or positive falsehoods, with their irregular mode of life, their volatility and their deficiency in the spirit of observation and integrity: may God keep the pure doctrine from such dross.

No, it is only the young whose heads are not yet deluged to overflowing with a flood of every-day dogmas, and in whose arteries there runs not yet the stream of medical prejudice; it is only such young and candid natures, on whom truth and philanthropy have got a hold, who are open to our simple doctrine of medicine, it is only those who, impelled by their own natural impulse (as I gladly observe in my pupils) to restore to the light of day by their devotion to the truth, those treasures of medicinal action; inestimable treasures which have been from of old allowed to lie unknown, in obscurity of self complacent, false-reasoning ingenuity; and I think some of them have made considerable progress in the practice of observation, and so will the good spread, but only where it finds suitable ground and soil.

### COUP DE SOLEIL:

OR, A STROKE OF THE SUN.

We intended sooner to have alluded to the great number of deaths in this city, from the excessive heat of the sun. These cases rarely fall into the hands of Homœopathic physicians, (their numbers, compared to others, being so limited,) but when they do, they are, so far as



we are aware, generally saved—especially if seen at once. In the ordinary mode of treatment, they are generally lost. We give a case treated by Dr. Barlow:—

C. F., April 23d, fell senseless, at 12 o'clock noon (on one of the hottest days of the season). I saw him in an half an hour afterward. He lay like one dead; pulseless; was cold from head to foot; bathed in cold perspiration; respiration so feeble that it was difficult to determine whether he breathed at all; dilated pupils.

I put one drop camph. 3d, in a tumbler of water, of which I gave him a teaspoonful. In twenty minutes I gave acon. 3d. three pellets, and covered him with flannels. The aconite was repeated once an hour till 5 o'clock, when he had slight convulsions. I then gave bell. 5th. 3 pellets. In half an hour he began to show signs of consciousness, and continued gradually to improve. At 8 o'clock he was able to speak; at 9, was able to sit up; slept well through the night; got up *well* in the morning, and walked home—distant some two miles.

He continued well without further medication.

And the following by ourselves:—

The patient had been for two hours or more in a raging delirium;—presenting all the symptoms of complete phrenitis. He was a carpenter, and had been exposed to the intense heat of one of the hottest days in August. Moreover, strong brandy had been poured down his throat by officious and ignorant people. His face was flushed; his eyes protruded, red, and glaring; was foaming at the mouth, and making attempts to spit, bite, and strike. The efforts of as many men as could lay hold of him, were impotent to restrain his ungovernable fury, and muscular exertions. We managed to put three pellets of belladonna 18th, upon his tongue,—the highest att. we happened to have in our case. In a few minutes, not more than three, he became quiet and rational, and desired the men to let go of him; he got up, kissed his wife and children, and appeared like one awakened from a dream. He slept quietly that night, was about the following day, and required no further treatment.

#### CROUP—WATER CURE.

We have received a copy of a small work, on the treatment of croup by cold water, by Henry Wigand M. D. The author testifies to the fact, that croup, in its worst and most threat-

ening form, is readily cured by the use of water. We are not disposed to question the efficacy and success of this mode of treatment; it does undoubtedly arrest the progress and development of the disease. The treatment is, however, troublesome and painful; yet we regard it incomparably better than the old mode, the adoption of which, if ever of use, is invariably so at the expense of the constitution and future health of the patient.

It is true that in our practice, we have the means of arresting the disease, and 'restoring health, in a prompt, mild, and permanent manner,' in ordinary cases; that cases may occur, requiring or rendering the application of water desirable, we think possible, and should without hesitation resort to it, were we unable to procure or determine the appropriate homœopathic remedy; at the same time we think such cases rare. We have never met with one ourselves. The author in conclusion, remarks:

'I do not blame physicians that they have administered calomel in large doses, in order to save a beloved child, even if its health became ruined forever; for they had no other remedy;—Calomel was their only and last resort.

But now the case is altered: We have another remedy, a specific for croup—and a more sure, a more harmless remedy than calomel, which leaves no after pains, and by which the life of children, already standing on the border of the grave, can be saved.

Every physician, therefore, owes it to his conscience and humanity, to consider whether he will continue in future to *poison* his croup patients by calomel, or will *cure* them by the application of cold water.'

We strongly recommend the work, and the treatment, to those who will not, or have not the means to adopt homœopathy.

The book is published by Otis Clapp, Boston—Radde, 322 Broadway N. Y., and C. L. Rademacher, Phila.

#### HOMŒOPATHY DISAPPROVES OF THE WHOLE DERIVATIVE METHOD.

This method consists in the production of an artificial or secondary disease, in order to relieve another or primary one, (antagonism counter-irritation,) and under this head are included such remedial measures as blisters, issues, moxas, seton, actual cautery, ointments containing tartar emetic, &c. The reasons



for which Homœopathy disapproves of them are much the same as those brought forward against bleeding, namely,

1. Because they are not necessary; for Homœopathy attains all the objects for which they are intended in a milder and more durable manner by properly chosen specific remedies.

2. Because they generally put the patient to great pain and torture, and thus often counteract the beneficial effects which they may produce in unimportant cases of acute disease.

3. Because they are frequently unsafe.—Epispastics, for instance, sometimes produce painful and dangerous constitutional symptoms, or extensive local inflammation, or even mortification. Pereira, speaking of the effects of blisters, says,—“Ulceration and gangrene are not uncommon; the latter effect is occasionally observed after exanthematous diseases, especially measles. I have seen death resulting therefrom in two instances.”

4. Because their effect is very uncertain, and in most cases only palliative.—They scarcely ever lead to a radical cure, but render, through their locally weakening effect, (which is nearly as great as that of leeching,) the respective organ extremely liable to a return of the same symptoms upon slight causes. This result we observe, for instance, in both acute and chronic cases of neuralgia, affections of the head, eyes, throat, windpipe, chest, rheumatism, spine complaint, &c.; and if one considers how rarely these means produce even a palliative effect in proportion to the frequency of their application, it would be surprising, that they are so constantly and extensively resorted to by reflecting medical practitioners, if the absence of better means did not render their avoidance very difficult.

5. Because they are disadvantageous with regard to the disease itself and frequently decidedly injurious. In their weakening effects these remedies can best be compared with bleeding, and particularly with local depletion. The only kind of cases in which, in want of better means, they would be to a certain degree justifiable, is that of unimportant, yet very painful acute disorders, such as tooth-ache or ear-ache, when vital power is not reduced, and the relief produced by them would be a sufficient compensation, if, after all, their beneficial effects even in these disorders were not exceedingly precarious and uncertain. But we maintain, that in all acute cases of any importance, and in all chronic cases without exception, these measures are disadvantageous

and objectionable, because they have no power, direct or indirect, of reaching the morbid cause of the disorder, and also on account of their general and local weakening effects. They drain and debilitate the whole frame, and still further exhaust it when all its vital energies are required to overcome the disorder thoroughly; and through their locally weakening effect they are particularly injurious to the organ to which they are applied, by impeding its radical cure and imparting to the acute disorder a strong tendency to assume a chronic character. We shall support our assertions by a few instances out of many. How often do we see in catarrhal affections, for which blistering and other counter irritants are almost invariably resorted to, the respiratory organs so much weakened by them, that the traces of the disorder do not radically disappear or that the acute affection takes a decidedly chronic character, or that even consumption of the larynx, windpipe or lungs, is the final consequence? In cases of acute inflammation of the knee or hip-joint, arising from outward injury or from constitutional causes, in which, besides leeching, blistering, and other derivative means are very generally applied, a radical cure is materially impeded by these local weakening measures, and chronic pain, swelling, hardness, stiffness, and want of muscular power often remain, and even shortening of the sinews, distortion, suppuration, dislocation, &c., are the not unfrequent consequences of the vital power of the organ thus treated being unduly reduced.

The temporary relief often afforded by the derivative method in acute diseases, might to a certain degree explain the frequency of its application in those disorders; but it would be difficult to understand that in chronic cases, where even such relief is exceedingly precarious and uncertain, these measures should be so constantly resorted to, if it was not an indisputable fact, that the better resources of allopathy for the cure of that class of diseases are exceedingly limited. Or else how could the practitioner so constantly have recourse to blisters, moxas, setons, cauteries, issues, &c., for chronic head-ache, chronic ophthalmia, chronic catarrh, consumption of the organs of respiration, liver complaint, affections of the heart, spine complaint, rheumatic disorders, hip-complaint, white swelling, paralytic affections, &c. Not only are the palliative effects of derivative measures in all these complaints exceedingly rare and precarious, but they are



also decidedly injurious; and they not only never reach the morbid constitutional cause, and therefore cannot lead to a cure; but they also confirm the complaint, render it more obstinate, frequently incurable, and not rarely hasten its fatal issue. C. V. &c.

#### CHRONIC DIARRHŒA.

Some 8 months ago, we treated a case of chronic diarrhœa of some years continuance. For three months, the patient had suffered greatly and uninterruptedly.

The discharges were frequent, painful, and debilitating; they occurred mostly at night.

The patient, a gentleman of apparently, a robust constitution, and of active habits. A single dose of *nux vom.* 30, followed by one dose of sulphur 30, cured it at once, and there has since been no return of it.

'POSTAGE PAID.'—We are constantly in the receipt of letters and communications, *postage unpaid*. The price of the Journal is too low to make a discount of five or ten per cent desirable to its patrons, or agreeable to us.

In single sums, the amount is trifling; but aggregated, it becomes a serious tax. We hope our friends will regard this, and in paying postage, consider they are doing so much for the cause, and relieving us of some share of the burden.

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The above Establishment being conducted upon entirely different principles from many others, furnishes the public with good opportunity of having work done on correct principles—without requiring exorbitant profits to feed hungry and numerous mortgages, &c. A steady business—small profits—and cash customers—are the peculiarities the Proprietor intends distinguishing HIS Office—and orders will continue to be attended to with the usual punctuality.

#### HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Smith's Homœopathic Pharmacy, is removed to No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. John T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's, Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order Homœopathic Plasters, a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY AT THE Apollo Rooms, 410 Broadway. Open daily, [Sunday excepted,] from 3 to 4.

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GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's, Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as *Jahr's Manual of Hom. Practice*, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull., M. D. *Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases*, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. *Hahnemann's Materia Medica*, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street between Arch and Cherry streets, Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epps' Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, etc. etc.

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I.

New York, Saturday, October 17, 1846.

NO. 13.

DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, OCT. 17, 1846.

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## HOMŒOPATHY IS PROGRESSIVE.

(Continued.)

We have often heard it said by the opponents of our school that "Homœopathy is going down"; that, "like all other novel speculations it will have, or has already had, its day." Now this is not so in fact, nor can it,

in the very nature of the principles upon which the art is based, ever become so. The developement of those principles which has served for the introduction of the Homœopathic practice, and given it a basis for accomplishing what, it cannot be denied, it has already accomplished, is a sure indication that it rests on something more than fancied truths and false expedients. No perfection of ingenuity, or subtlety of invention, could possibly convince so many entire, distinct communities, in various parts of the world; so many thousands of intelligent people, that the effects produced by the attenuated doses of the Homœopathic school were not real; that they are deceived in believing so. And if they be real, it must be admitted that they are produced by the operation of some law—dependant upon some fundamental principle;—that there is a relation between the agent used, and the condition for which it is used. How else would an attenuated dose, an infinitesimal dose of a drug, sometimes of an inert substance, produce effects?

These same doses may be given in any quantity in a healthy condition of the organism, and no effects will be produced, none are looked for; they may be given when no relation exists between them and the state of the system; when there is no similarity, no correspondence between the drug used, and the abnormal symptoms which may chance to exist, as the consequence of some disturbing cause, and no evidence that they have any action will be had. If then effects are produced, it is because this relation exists, and it involves a principle that must in itself be true, and forever hold good in its application. This relation we teach, and daily demonstrate in our practice, to be based upon the principle of similitude. Disease, or any abnormal disturbing agent in the system, produces certain phenomena, indicated by certain symptoms. Drugs also, when



used as disturbing agents, produce certain phenomena which are indicated by symptoms. Now when a correspondence exists between the symptoms of the disease and a certain drug, when the symptoms of the one are like those of the other, that drug is found promptly to remove those symptoms, and to annihilate the cause, when given in attenuated doses. This is the principle upon which the Homœopathist prescribes; it is upon this principle that Homœopathic cures are effected. This principle, if true at all, must be forever so;—if true in any instance, it must be universal and immutable.

With it for a basis, Homœopathy must progress. Before it can go down, this principle of similitude must be proven false;—some other principle proven true, before any other system can displace it. Till then it cannot go down. As long as drugs will cure, in small doses, affections similar to such as disease will cause, so long will they be given in that way and for such purpose. Till they cease thus to act, it is idle and absurd to talk of Homœopathy going down. It must go up, progress with time, and come at last to be as pure and perfect as the foundation upon which it rests.

A correspondent of Dr. Forbes writes, "you ascribe immense influence to Hahnemann as a reformer of regular practice."

"In this country, his doctrine and course of treatment have had but little effect on the 'regulars.'" Now this is far from the truth. The practitioners of Homœopathy are converts from Allopathy. There are more than one thousand physicians of that school in this country, nine-tenths of whom are "regular" doctors in the approved acceptation of the term; and at least two-thirds of the number have been "regulars" in the practice of Allopathy. Besides it is not to be concealed that the influence of Homœopathy in modifying and *reforming* that of Allopathy has been vast and general; and more, there are hundreds of "regulars" who are secretly prescribing the Homœopathic remedies. Conversions from Allopathic ranks are constant, but still the supply of physicians is not proportionate to the demand;—so rapid is the progress of Homœopathy in this country, that there are hundreds of towns and villages prepared to receive and sustain a competent physician of this school. Homœopathy is progressive in fact, progressive in its spirit and tendency. It cannot be put down with words. It is something that must be met, examined, and passed

upon according to its merits. Of the obstacles to its progress we shall have more to say.

## HOMŒOPATHY DISAPPROVES OF ALL EXTERNAL MEDICINAL APPLICATIONS FOR OUTWARD SYMPTOMS OF DISEASE.

With the exception of the application of arnica or rhus toxicodendron for cases arising from recent outward injury, Homœopathy rejects all external medicinal applications, such as ointments, washes, medicated baths, plasters, embrocations, medicinal cataplasm, caustics, &c., for the cure of external symptoms of disease.

1. *Because they are unnecessary*; for Homœopathy attains all the objects they are intended for, by properly chosen internal remedies.

2. *Because they cannot lead to a radical cure of the disorder.*—All these symptoms from the simple wart to the most hideous forms of eruptive complaints, are not merely local disorders, but on the contrary, only the outward symptoms of an internal constitutional disease, which Nature in her instinctive efforts has thrown on a less vital external organ in order to relieve more important internal viscera or the constitution in general, from the destructive effects of the whole disorder. Therefore, if these symptoms are forced from their external seat by local medicinal applications or other outward means, the disease itself is not cured, but only deprived of the advantage of an external manifestation; an effect which at best amounts only to temporary palliation, but offers no guarantee whatsoever of being a radical cure.

3. *Because these means become the indirect cause of other complaints.*—When the outward symptom, being nothing but the local manifestation of a general constitutional disorder, has disappeared in consequence of medicinal applications or other local remedial measures, the whole weight of the disease is necessarily thrown upon internal organs, or the constitution in general; and if the former does not soon reappear in the same or similar form, it unavoidably manifests itself sooner or later in other complicated and frequently dangerous and fatal complaints. To illustrate our assertions by some instances we appeal to daily experience in the treatment of chronic eruptions of the skin, which have all a constitutional character from the simplest to the most complicated, and form a most important item among the diseases to which the body is subject.

When itch, which is the most common among them, or any other kind of chronic eruption is repelled by outward applications, the effects of such re-percussion are sometimes very sudden, and medical literature abounds with instances where apoplexy, spitting of blood, inflammation, fever, inflammation of the lungs, and other viscera, rapid consumption, jaundice, ophthalmia, deafness, erysipelas, convulsions, paralysis and mental aberration, etc., have been the almost immediate consequence of such proceedings. Generally however the consequences are not so sudden and immediate, but, owing to a good constitution and other favourable circumstances, they are kept in check for a long time after, often for many years, till the constitution from physical or moral causes becomes weakened, and the resistance of vital power less effectual; and then chronic diseases, various according to predisposition and exciting causes, make their appearance. Thus it is in numerous cases not very difficult to trace chronic disorders which have not a decidedly hereditary character, back to the re-percussion of itch, or some other chronic breaking out, sometimes through many Protean transformations. Homœopathy owes its great success in the treatment of chronic diseases in a great measure to the attention paid to such origin. Hahnemann, in his classical book\* on chronic diseases, quotes many instances in support of this view from ancient and modern allopathic writers, which place the reality of the mischief done by treating eruptive diseases with outward applications beyond the shadow of a doubt. Among the chronic disorders which they mention as having clearly arisen from the re-percussion of eruptive diseases are asthma, dropsy of the chest and abdomen, chronic cough, chronic spitting of blood, pulmonary consumption; scirrhus and cancer of the stomach, swelling of the glands, cataract, amaurosis, deafness, ulcers of the leg, caries, epilepsy, paralysis, melancholy, mental derangement, sciatica, chronic rheumatism, hysteria, chlorosis, suppression of the menses, chronic affections of the liver, hæmorrhage, chronic headache, &c. Thousands of children die every year of water on the brain produced by improper treatment of scald head and similar eruptions on the head. The baneful effects of the external treatment of the syphilitic ulcer or sycotic excrescences are well known. No practitioner is unaware of the consequences

arising from the disappearance of an ulcer on the leg by means of a drying ointment or other applications. And these consequences not only arise in such cases which have been treated exclusively by outward means, but not less in those wherein a constitutional treatment has been resorted to at the same time. Therefore, Homœopathy insists, in all such cases, where a radical cure is the main object, upon the exclusive application of a general constitutional treatment.

#### HOMŒOPATHY SUPERSEDES THE NECESSITY OF A GREAT NUMBER OF SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

There is no essential difference between physic and surgery; both have for their object the cure of disease, and though their practical parts are frequently disunited, their theory and principles are indivisible, and they truly constitute one and the same science. The distinction between them is a mere matter of arbitrary usage, and the only difference that can exist between the surgeon and physician is a point of practical dexterity, although thus far of high importance inasmuch as some men from choice, long practice, and natural talent, become more skilful in the use of mechanical means than others. In all other points the surgeon ought to have the same knowledge of the art of curing diseases as the physician, and *vice versâ*. Such being the case, the science, and in many respects the art of surgery, are materially influenced by the reform which Homœopathy is calculated to effectuate in the practice of the healing art. We refer the reader to the paragraph wherein the subject of local diseases has been briefly mentioned, and he will there see that many diseases reputed to be local, and for which surgical operations are frequently resorted to as curative means, are, in truth, general constitutional disorders which require above all a constitutional treatment. The mere mechanical removal of the local symptom amounts, in such cases, at best only to a temporary palliation, but does not reach the main source of the symptom, namely its constitutional cause. The necessary consequence is, that in such cases, if the life of the patient be spared, the local affection reappears in the same or another form, or the whole weight of the disease is thrown upon the general constitution. Modern surgery has certainly not overlooked this very important matter, and in most cases combines a general con-

\* Vol. i., p. 23.



stitutional treatment with its mechanical measures; but having no supreme principle to guide it in the choice of proper medicines, these efforts seldom attain the object which they are intended for. In many cases, however, the merits of surgery are so true, certain and undeniable, and so conformable to the great object of all medical art, that it deserves to be placed in rank far above physic in its ordinary form, instead of having formerly been and being even sometimes now considered an inferior branch of practical medicine. Who could deny the great merits of surgery with regard to fractures, dislocations, the amputation of limbs when it is unavoidable, the stopping of extensive hæmorrhage from outward injury, the treatment of aneurism from mechanical causes, the irregular obstruction of natural apertures, the various mechanical contrivances in cases of prolapsus, the application of the catheter, the opening of the larynx and windpipe obstructed by foreign bodies, the Cesarean operation, cataract when proper constitutional treatment has preceded the operation; many cases of squinting; the removal of foreign bodies which have entered or have been formed in different organs; in the dressing of wounds, the operation of the hare lip, incarcerated hernia, when all other means have failed, artificial limbs, mechanical contrivances to relieve persons suffering from hernia, &c.; any one of which points exceeds in intrinsic undoubted value many of the cures, the precarious merit of the performance of which is generally attributed to physic. But in many other cases which are generally placed in the department of surgery, a higher importance is attached to the mere mechanical removal of, or local remedial measures to the prominently affected parts, than either a due regard for the safety of the patient or for a radical cure of the whole complaint justify. The constitutional treatment is often much too little thought of, and frequently entirely omitted, when it ought to have been resorted to exclusively. Thus cases of cancer on any part of the body, caries and other diseases of the bones, dropsy, fistula, disease of the knee and hip-joint, different affections of the spine, piles, polypus, tumors of various kinds, cataract, ulcers of various descriptions, &c., require either an exclusively constitutional treatment, or an operation should never be resorted to, till the morbid cause of such symptoms is sufficiently neutralized by a general specific treatment. If this course be not pursued, as it is too frequent-

ly the case, the operation does not lead to a radical cure, amounts to nothing but dangerous palliation, and often entails other chronic disorders on the patient, if it does not lead to a prematurely fatal issue. The resources of Homœopathy for this kind of disorders are very great and extensive, and there are numerous cases on record in homœopathic literature, which have been cured by that system, after surgery had declared the cure to be impossible without a surgical operation. The great object of ambition of surgery ought not to be to perform as many operations as possible, or to venture with courage and boldness upon operations, the performance of which is thought to be very difficult, or has seldom been attempted before, but this it ought to be: *to be able to look upon operations as an unavoidable exception, and not as the rule of art, to preserve the organ affected instead of removing it*; and the more surgery advances in that path the more it may glory in real indisputable improvements.

C. V., &c.

#### HOMŒOPATHY THE ONLY TRUE PRINCIPLE IN THERAPEUTICS.

As in the nature of science it must have some fixed principles—laws; so Therapeutics must have before it can ever become reduced to a science. Confessedly devoid of any, and with the conviction and acknowledgment that they will be discovered, the attention of the profession is at this moment directed to their discovery. How is it to be made?—By continued experiments? These have been made for so many centuries, and without any advancement to the art, that nothing can be left to hope from a fresh series. All manner of devices and speculations have been long since, and repeatedly exhausted; and even if there be those vain enough to imagine that they may be so fortunate as to hit upon some untried and successful expedients, the whole system has so grown into disfavor with mankind, that it can never again be carried on as in times past; and the increased intelligence and good sense of the present age is not favorable to it.

Speaking of the "writings of Hippocrates and Galen," the Editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* says:

"After reading the opinions, precepts and recorded observations of these far-seeing, discreet practitioners—the oldest of whom, Hippocrates, born 2302 years since, and Galen 1700 years—the conclusion is, that we have made but very little advancement in the knowledge of diseases

or their appropriate remedies, since they left the stage. Like the strata of the earth, which have been rolled over and over, till the bottom of primitive seas has become the peaks of mountains; and the monuments of nature's mighty achievements, the mis-called everlasting hills, have sunk into fathomless abysses, so have been the revolutions of human thought and the grandest displays of man's wisdom. With all our boasted progress, there is but little in medicine that is new; the same ideas and suggestions that occupied the vigorous mind of Hippocrates twenty-three centuries ago, are in our time raised from the buried wrecks of the past, and palmed off for original specimens. The historian who honestly unrolls the chart on which are truly represented all the links in the chain of knowledge from the first period of authentic record down to his own time, shows that though we often imagine ourselves advancing through untrodden fields, these same fields yielded rich harvests into the garner of our predecessors, whose names and prowess are as obscure in the mist of tradition as the architects of the western tumuli."

How is it to be made? We answer, most certainly, and most rationally, in the first place, by determining the effects of the various medicinal substances [drugs] upon the human system; their proper specific, independent action; to know the minute and exact effects they are capable of producing, and to observe the changes they cause in the conditions and functions of the body. The precise action of each individual drug must be ascertained:—without such knowledge no man is competent to administer them to the sick. That this exact knowledge of the specific effects of drugs upon the human system—particularly of the more poisonous drugs—is the first requisite of a Physician, is so palpably true and reasonable, that we are sure that those who profess to be Physicians, must experience a degree of wonder at their stupidity that they are actually devoid of it, while their patients must feel indignant that they have never professed *nor attempted such knowledge*. No man can have a *moral* right to prescribe to the sick, poisons, with whose precise and specific, immediate and permanent action upon the human organism he is not acquainted—certainly not.

Drugs are capable of producing specific and determinate actions, that cannot be known, save by trying them in health. They tend, some to affect one organ, and others another, to produce peculiar conditions.

Suppose now, that Belladonna would produce irritation and inflammation of the brain; and in any given case of sickness, there should happen to exist a *tendency* to such a condition

of that organ. Now let the physician, ignorant of the peculiar action of Belladonna, administer it in his *drop doses*; how soon would he have a "new feature in his case;"—"a singular and remarkable turn in the disease;"—"a new aspect of things;" and how speedily and wantonly is the life of the patient put in jeopardy? As there already exists in the case a disposition to inflammatory or other deranged condition of the brain; and as Belladonna would of itself produce such condition, its administration, under such circumstances, would certainly establish it; and a positive, dangerous—perhaps fatal condition is thus superinduced through want of knowledge on the part of the physician, of a drug, whose action it is his profession and duty fully to understand.

Suppose the deranged vital action to be already taking a direction toward some vital organ, or tending to some critical condition, and a drug is administered that is capable of giving such direction, and producing such tendency; the very evil would thus be induced, upon the avoidance of which, the salvation of the patient might depend.

When the action of the drug, and the cause of disturbance in the system are similar; when both will move the vital power to some point; when both tend to fasten upon the same organ, or tissue, how pitiable and lamentable—human life in innumerable instances being at stake—the want of knowledge on the part of those who profess the noble art of healing, of those agents, so powerful to destroy life;—so certain to do so when their action is similar to that of the disease, and but a little impetus to the deranged action of the system is required to determine it fatally.

#### DR. WELLS.—No. 2.

Messrs Editors:—

In my last I remarked on the skepticism we sometimes meet in respect to the efficacy of highly potentized remedies. I gave a case illustrating their successful administration. Permit me to call the attention of yourselves and readers once more to that case. It was of several year's standing; and during three years, had exhibited no disposition to spontaneous cure. It had been treated Allopathically, and during the treatment was wholly unaffected. It had been twice treated Homœopathically, with no better result; and between the two trials, months elapsed, and yet there was no *beginning* of a spontaneous healing. After



the second trial there were at least six months before the high potency was administered, to which it did respond; and during these six months there was no change for the better, and none for the worse, of so much importance as to attract the attention of the patient. But immediately on taking the single globule, which it may be remarked was laid dry on the tongue, the case grew *worse*, and continued to grow worse for five days. Why? I ask, was the sudden aggravation? What was the cause of it? The like of it had not been before, when under treatment, nor when without treatment. I ask why was it? Why should it take a start just then, such as it had never taken before? And why should it take just such a start? It looks so exactly like what I have so many times seen after the exhibition of *specific* remedies in other cases, that it would be difficult for me to divest myself of the conviction that the aggravation was *one of the effects of that globule*. And if I could, what *rational* man would not say that I had probably succeeded in ridding myself of a truth? And then, though my views might the more nearly tally with popular ignorance and prejudice, should I not be just so much more a dunce than before?

But at the expiration of this time the inflamed surface began to be less sensitive to touch; was less painful; the fissures and ulcers began to heal; the scabs became less adherent, then smaller, and finally fell off, leaving a surface somewhat red, slightly painful to the touch, and showing one small crack at the posterior angle of the nostril. What induced this change? If it had followed the use of Allopathic lotions, salves, or drugs; would the doctor or his friends ever thought of a suspicion that it was not produced by them? And, remembering the history of the case as given above, does the result admit of a more *rational* explanation, than the most obvious one? I know it has been said by a highly distinguished professor in one of our universities, that "such cures are to be ascribed to *any* other cause rather than the doses given, because no other cause can be so improbable." It is sufficient to reply, that it is not a question of *probability*, but of *fact*. Did the globule first aggravate and then alleviate the case? Is this a fact? *Not*, is it probable? That may be true—most true, which in our present state of knowledge and opinions, may be highly improbable; and probabilities may prove false. And here it is conceived is the foundation of much of the skepticism in this matter. It is *improbable*, and therefore it does not receive

that attention or investigation which would *prove* it true or false. That its truth or falsehood is capable of *proof* is most confidently asserted. That it is the *duty* of such men as this professor to enter on this proof, is as confidently believed. But no, why should he waste time on that which is so improbable, that the utmost stretch of extravagance cannot be more so? I ask who made him or his friends the judge of the *probability* or improbability of that of which he and they *know* positively nothing? What if it be improbable, *a priori*, that the highly attenuated drugs should have power to cure important and inveterate diseases; there are multitudes who have ascertained the *fact* that they do so cure, by positive experiments, hundreds and thousands of times repeated; and the important discovery is met with the quiet suggestion of improbability. Is this right? Is it manly? Is there not *guilt* here? It has not only been ascertained by positive and careful—aye, most careful experiment, that these attenuations have power to cure; but it has been *proved* that they have exceeding great power—greater than has *yet* been found in any other substances, however applied. And is there not *guilt* in a skepticism which rejects so important a discovery, unexamined—untried? Why, it may be asked, is this fact neglected, decried, ridiculed? Is it because the means in ordinary use for the cure of disease are so complete as to leave nothing farther to be desired? Let the effects of those means, as witnessed in the varied forms of disease they have produced, when given for the removal of infinitely less important maladies. Let the multitudes of half cured diseases which wander up and down in the land, doomed to perpetual pain. Let these, and the sufferings which accompany the use of these ordinary means, testify. Sirs, our whole land is filled with half-living, moving, ghastly witnesses of their imperfection and inadequacy of these means to cure the sufferings of our race. And now, when thousands of men, as competent to investigate and testify as those who reject facts without a look, ascertain by protracted, careful observation, that a more certain, safe, and powerful means of cure does exist, and when they bring it to light, and present it to the world, why, in the face of their testimony—in the face of suffering mortality—aye, in the face too of the wrecks of health, and destruction of life which have followed in their own path, where they have made their best efforts. These men cry "*it is improbable!*" And this, though it is more than enough, is not all;

nor is it the worst. The men who have been willing to give their lives to toil, care, and painful watching, and painful experiments too, to bring out this important truth, and perfect the knowledge of it, have been held up by those who would not so much as touch it with one of their fingers. Sirs, by such they have been held up to the *ridicule* of the world they sought to bless—represented as fanatics—impostors—visionaries, aye, even as *insane*. And why? Because they had discovered a *truth* and made it known. I ask again, in all this self-complaisant skepticism, and this malevolent aspersion,—is there not deep guilt?

### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

The latent, predisposing cause of disease, upon which chronic affections are dependant for their existence and manifestation, has its origin in a disturbance of the vital action, by some morbid influence of a miasmatic character. The existence of these affections is conclusive evidence that something has disturbed, and continues to disturb, the natural and normal action of the vital power. All diseases of a specific character and of whose origin we know any thing, are caused by some poisonous miasm; and no disease, except what may grow out of mechanical causes, or poisons, can originate by any other means. Here are a large class of disorders that have no cause assigned for them, and yet their existence is evidence of some cause, is proof that the vital power has been disturbed by some inimical influence. Of the character of those miasms which give rise to diseases, that are known to be dependant upon them, we know nothing, and can only judge of them by their effects.

The cholera, whose ravages are so terrific, is produced at irregular periods, confined to no particular climate, and is dependant upon causes of an inexplicable and inappreciable character—yet it must have its origin in some specific miasm, that no human power is competent to detect. It goes where it listeth; we see its dreadful effects, but cannot tell whence it cometh nor whither it goeth. Its laws, if to any it owes allegiance, are hidden from human penetration. Its essence is invisible, imponderable—ethereal.

And so of the yellow fever, typhus, small-pox, and other diseases of like nature, which are propagated by morbid poisons (miasms) of an infectious, or contagious character.

The small-pox virus is not considered to exist independently, but that since its first appearance in the earliest periods of time, it has been propagated by contagion. No series of transmigrations; no lapse of time, nor change of climate, has served to lessen its virulence, or to destroy its power. It has lost nothing of its poison—its specific character is unchanged; and yet it has never been detected: it cannot be known. The atmosphere which may be charged with it, as far as human means may distinguish, is as pure as that which gives life, and energy, and health. The poison may be diffused in the open air, and yet be capable of imparting its contagion. How small must be the dose requisite so to impress the nervous system, and alter the vital action, as to bring about the developement of a disease at once so marked, so loathsome and painful. It may even be propagated by wearing apparel, and other articles used about persons afflicted with the disease, and these may be transmitted any distance, and kept for any length of time, and yet retain enough of the poison to produce its horrid effects.

“The propagation of the small-pox by fomites is a well established fact, and is universally received.

“The Brahmin practice of inoculating for this disease by means of cotton steeped in variolous matter and applied over the punctured part, is alone sufficient to authenticate it. It appears also that the small-pox was introduced into the Cape of Good Hope by means of fomites. A Dutch ship, some of whose crew had labored under this disease, put into that port, and the captain sent the foul linen ashore to be washed. The small-pox immediately broke out among the Hottentots employed to wash the articles, so that most of them perished: it spread up the country, and to such an extent, that the Hottentot tribes at last drew a cordon around the infected place, and shot all who attempted to pass beyond. Frank also relates a case, that occurred within his own knowledge, of the disease being communicated by fomites: a lady called one morning on a female friend, and was shown into the drawing-room, and unfortunately put on a cloak which was lying about; it belonged to her friend who lay ill of the small-pox; she immediately threw it off on learning this event, and left the house, but was already infected, and the disease appearing at the usual time, she shortly after died.”

In fact, its effects,—the violence and full developement of the disease, are in a mesasure



proportionate to the strength, or quantity of the dose, for when it is applied in substance to the abraded surface, by inoculation, a modified form of the disease is produced, whereas in its worst form it appears in cases in which the exposure to its influence cannot be accounted for.

### CHOLERA IN INDIA.

We copy the following distressing particulars from the *Bombay Times*, conveyed by the Overland Mail, which left Bombay the 18th July, and arrived in England on the 4th September :

Cholera, in one of its most frightful and deadly forms, had just visited Kurrachee, and in the course of ten days carried off one-fourth of the troops and one-half of the inhabitants of that station. Ever since the conquest, the seaport of Scinde has enjoyed a comparative exemption from those maladies which have been so fearfully fatal in the upper country, so that the fact escaped us that Kurrachee was subject to triennial visitations, and that if, in 1839 and 1842, the disease was the same, only less fatal than in 1846, the circumstances most probably depended on the smaller volume and lesser density of the mass of human beings on whom it had to act. The heat had for the first fortnight of June been intense, but there was no considerable amount of sickness at the station. The 14th was a Sunday, and the atmosphere was more than usually stagnant and oppressive. A thick portentous looking cloud crept up the sky when the troops were proceeding to a church, and a sudden burst of wind threatened the buildings. It passed away almost as speedily as it came, and when the worshippers retired, the air was as still as when they assembled. At that same hour did the pestilence appear. Before midnight, nine of the 86th were at rest, and men began to be borne into the hospital in such numbers that it was difficult to make arrangements for their reception. It was a fearful night. With morning came the tidings that the pestilence was overspreading the town, and 50 had in 24 hours fallen victims. The 94th were the earliest, and continued to be the severest, sufferers. They and her majesty's 60th had for six months been in tents close to each other ; they were, the day after the disease appeared, marched out for change of air, and encamped by the sea-shore near Clifton. The Rifles were next attacked ; then the Fusiliers ; the artillery and native infantry began to suffer after this. For five fear-

ful days did the destroyer lay his hand most heavily upon them, and in this time more than 1,000 men were carried to their graves ! The pestilence now began to abate—it had done its worst, and seemed about to withdraw. Within less than a fortnight 900 Europeans, including 815 fighting men, were carried away. 600 native soldiers and 7,000 of the camp followers and inhabitants of the town had been hurried into eternity. The conduct of the governor is stated to have been beyond all praise ; anxiety for the sick conferring an alacrity on limbs the hand of time might have stiffened. He went about everywhere—counselling the healthy—seeing that the sick were cared for—cheering the sufferers, and comforting those hastening to another world. Pestilence, which too often generates recklessness and indifference, was here met with manly dignity and Christian composure and resignation. The men disregarded infection, braved every danger in waiting on each other, and each seemed to feel that the tenderness they one hour bestowed on a suffering comrade might be the next required by themselves. The feeling in too many cases was not slow in being realized. Calamity is apt to beget complaint—sickness to generate unreasonable querulousness. Yet on the present occasion no single murmur against the arrangements or conduct of any one reached us during the currency of the pestilence. The appearance presented by Kurrachee after the fatality of the disease had passed is described as very awful. The temporary sojourners in the town, and all who could get away, had fled panic struck. Of the natives, one-half nearly had been removed by death. The soldiers had been buried in their beds—there was no time for shroud or coffin—in pits of such depth as could be excavated in haste. The effluvium now arising from the remains of 8,000 festering dead—half-burned or half-buried—is described as fearful—fit to generate a second pestilence. Cholera had been heard of in the neighborhood, and its appearance was not wholly unexpected. It seems now to be creeping up the river, great apprehensions of its approach to Hyderabad being expressed. At Sukkur, again, a very virulent variety of fever afflicts the European soldier. In a few hours it is fatal ; and so severely have the men of her majesty's 17th suffered, that arrangements were being made for bringing them down to Hyderabad by steam.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH  
DR. FORBES.

The following letters, and the introduction, is from "*The British and Foreign Medical Review*," &c., edited by John Forbes, M. D., etc. Some of our lay readers may not know, that, this Journal stands at the very head of such publications in the Allopathic school; and Dr. Forbes may be regarded as the very highest authority of that school. Our readers are already aware that Dr. Forbes wrote and published a paper entitled, "*Homœopathy, Allopathy and Young Physic*" which was republished in this country, and widely circulated. That which caused the said paper to be interesting to the school of Homœopathy; and which in fact constituted the essential part of it, was this: Dr. Forbes showed conclusively, and so much so, that it came home with the force of truth to every reader, that Allopathy is "evil, only evil, continually;" in a word, he completely demolished Allopathic practice. It seems that the boldness of Dr. Forbes in this matter, alarmed himself, and forthwith he sent his paper, together with private letters to many of the most learned and most experienced Physicians in Europe and America, asking their opinion of it. We now furnish our readers with the first and second letters from our own country. These letters, as will be perceived, carry with them internal evidence of high authority—they bear the stamp of learning, thought and experience. They also show that their confidence in Allopathy is gone, which is the main object we have in their publication.

["The following pages consist of extracts from a very voluminous and interesting correspondence with which the editor has been favoured since the publication of the article on Homœopathy and Allopathy, in the January number of this journal. They are made public, in the hope that they may tend to promote the object with which the article was written—viz: the improvement of practical medicine. Emanating, as they almost all do, from men not only of reputation, but of long experience—from men in every rank of the profession, and living in different countries, they will show that the opinions promulgated by the editor are neither novel nor singular, but are in strict accordance with those entertained by the most eminent members of our body. All the merit the writer of the article in question has ever sought to claim for it, is, that it openly avowed what the writer knew to be the sentiments of the wisest and best among his brethren. The correspondence and the other documents now published will, it is hoped, spread more widely the knowledge of

the fact—that such are in reality the sentiments of a large portion of the physicians and surgeons of the present day. Such a knowledge cannot fail to give greater confidence to the younger members of the profession, not merely to declare their opinions, but to modify their practice according to the views they may conscientiously entertain. It is mainly to the younger members of the profession that the writer of the article in question looks for the consummation of the reformation in therapeutics, which he is desirous of promoting, and which he believes to be absolutely necessary—and enevitable.

In his desire to forward the cause in which he has embarked, the editor has entirely disregarded the imputation to which he has probably laid himself open in printing these extracts—that, namely, of publishing his own praises. In sending them to the press he has certainly omitted much that was complimentary; but if he had omitted all, he would obviously have defeated the object he had in view in publishing them,—the corroboration of his own views by the high authority of others. The editor will only further add, that as none of these communications were written with a view to publication, he has not only omitted the writers' names, but left out every indication of their precise locality. He trusts that his excellent friends and correspondents will forgive him for making the profession generally partakers in the great satisfaction and advantage which he himself has derived from their communications."]

(A) "—(America), January 30th, 1846.

"I thank you much for having written the article. The fulness of time has come in which all this matter should be exposed fully and clearly. You have not said a thing which I have not thought of and agreed to beforehand. I know how presumptuous this may seem; but you know that it is one thing to entertain correct thought on a subject, and quite another thing to bring them out clearly and in proper order, so as to claim the assent of all good judges. This last is what you have done most satisfactorily.

"Some of the opinions you have expressed I have entertained for many long years; others I have arrived at more lately. I first longed for a good natural history of diseases, to decide how far remedies had an effect. As connected with this I early learned the primary importance of diagnosis, and this in reference to the different stages of diseases as well as in reference to diseases themselves. It is many years since I was satisfied, in respect to acute diseases, that it was only on the first days (principally the first three days) that medicine (drugs) could be of much service. At this period I am still satisfied that acute diseases can, ordinarily, be much mitigated and somewhat shortened. But an exception must be made in regard to such as we call malignant (yellow fever, Asiatic cholera); and, as to shortening, in reference to the exanthemata. I have been getting more and more of the opinion, that in most chronic dis-



eases, diet and regimen will often have a great influence,—drugs rarely any very decisive good effect, and often an injurious effect only. I have long deprecated the idea (and this I have done in communication with my intelligent patients) that medicines (drugs) are necessary in the treatment of all diseases. I have urged that it was the business of the physician to take care of the sick, pointing out that *cure* and *care* were the same word originally,—and that in taking care, it was much more important that he should endeavour to control the influence of the common agents, than that of the occasional ones, called medicines;—that he should attend to the non-naturals,—those things which nature does not decide, but leaves to our choice,—that he, the physician, should do it, and not leave it to the nurse or the grandmother. In consonance with these views, I have been unwilling to say that my patients who recovered were cured by me; for I endeavoured to cure all of them, and claimed to have done it, even when they died. In our hospital, opened twenty odd years ago, I would not allow the record books to say that so many patients had been cured, as is a common practice; but that so many were discharged well, so many improved in health, &c. I have often urged upon my bretheren that we should never get the better of quackery so long as we attributed the recovery of our patients to medicine, on the *propter hoc* principle—that is, *propter hoc* because *post hoc*. Our proper ground is, that, having studied the subject and had personal experience, we know better than others how to direct the cure of the sick; and that in doing so we may use drugs, or may not, as the case may require. These drugs may sometimes be directed against the principal disease; but oftener they may be used to counteract or guard against the accidents which would aggravate that disease.

"I have found no difficulty in all this. In some respects I have, perhaps, had advantages which you do not yet enjoy. Though we have good apothecaries, by whom alone medicines are ordinarily put up,—they are strictly men of the shop. They never visit the sick, and do not pretend to practice. They make their charges for medicines alone, and are paid as grocers or other trades people are. The physicians (and practitioners generally) charge first for their services whether they order medicine or not. Thus, there are none of the inducements to employ drugs which exist among a large class of practitioners with you. In our country towns the physicians supply the drugs; still the influence of city customs prevents their resting their emoluments on these; they charge distinctly and mainly for their visits, &c. Again, among the regular practitioners we have not any distinction of classes; though age, &c. give to some men a certain rank, it is very different from what exists with you. We all of us have therefore a chance to get patients at the onset of the disease. . . . .

"I have said that I have found no difficulty in satisfying patients without medicines. I began life with a good confidence in certain articles, and more especially in the alterative powers of mercurials. The doctrine now prevalent with

you as to the power of calomel in acute disease, especially in inflammation, was familiar to me, and fully believed, when I attended St. Thomas's, in 1799-1800. I used to say to my young friends there, with the true juvenile conviction of superiority, that it was singular Dr. Saunders (William) could be so blind; in his book, and in his lectures, he advised the use of mercury in acute as well as in chronic hepatitis, yet did not see that it ought to be equally useful in other acute inflammations, as I knew that it was. It was some years later that one of your Dr. Hamiltons (in England, not Scotland) first brought forward the general doctrine; at least, so far as I know. At the present day, I find it maintained by Dr. Watson in his delightful lectures. Now, I am not ready to say that the practice is all wrong. There is perhaps some good in it in some cases; but when pursued heroically it does a wonderful deal of mischief. Whether it often *causes* a fatal result I will not say; I think not often; but it often adds much to the suffering of the patient and to the duration of his *sickness* if not of his *disease*. I began to perceive this early in my career, but not in its whole extent for more than twenty-five years. In acute rheumatism I gave up the mercurials within six or eight years after I began; though it would seem to be the disease to which it should be most applicable. And as early as this I became very careful not to produce a sore mouth in all cases of disease. But I was a pioneer here; and I can boast (for I may seem to be boasting) much more of what has been done by younger men—whose modes of philosophising in medicine I have influenced in some measure—than of my own doings. . . . .

"I must finish by saying, that I am often consulted by people from the country, as well as from the city, in chronic diseases, though I have ceased to be a busy practitioner; and that I find no difficulty in sending away a patient, after an hour's lecture upon his mode of life and conversation, without any prescription for medicine. In epilepsy and in phthisis, except so far as symptoms may require to be alleviated, I always tell the patient at once not to take any drug to remove his disease. But in epilepsy, not evidently from organic disease, and in phthisis at an early period, I venture to say that much alleviation and benefit may be derived from care as to diet, exercise abroad, &c. Do not understand that there is a precise formula which I follow in these cases. I try to communicate principles rather than rules, and I find a large proportion of patients can understand me." . . . . .

(B) "—— (America,) March 26, 1846.

"A few weeks since I had the pleasure to receive your remarks on Homœopathy, &c., with an accompanying note, requesting the opinion of those to whom it was communicated, whether harmonizing with or discordant from it.

"The remarks I read with the deepest interest; they open to the eye a new and beautiful view of medical practice; beautiful, because it harmonizes with natural laws which we are well acquainted with, but greatly neglect. .



"For forty years and more I have been called to attempt the relief of suffering by medical and surgical administration; the result of my observation has been that drugs are frequently more injurious than beneficial, particularly where the course of disease is established; the glimpses of truth which have occasionally enlightened me now shine out broadly in your philosophical treatise. I heartily congratulate you on your having courage to be its author, and sincerely believe it will do more service in the improvement of medical practice than any publication of the day."

Every one who considers these letters cannot but see how strong the testimony is against the present mode of the treatment of diseases as practiced by the old school. And furthermore, we do not wonder at all at the unwillingness of the writer of the first letter to say, "my patients who recovered were cured by me," and for this reason, that school does not recognise the real and positive curative effects of drugs, they have no such thing in their *Materia Medica*; for it is only by an exact knowledge of what drugs can do in the removal of disease, which will enable the Physician to pronounce which cases are cured. Homœopathy opens the way to this knowledge—she is exact in all her movements—she has a solid basis—fixed principles to guide in the treatment of the sick.

### TREATMENT OF HORSES.

WASHINGTON, September, 30 1846.

Messrs Editors:—

Observing in the New York Herald, that a fatal disease amongst horses in your part of the country has destroyed hundreds, it occurred to me that Homœopathic physicians might render the State and themselves some service in investigating the nature of the disease and applying a remedy. It would not be derogatory to the dignity of the philanthropic physician to examine into a subject in which man is so much interested, as that of saving the lives of such valuable animals. I give you this hint to make the suggestion to physicians in your valuable Journal.

Homœopathy is still progressing in this region.

Respectfully, &c,

J. R. PIPER, M. D.

Messrs. Kirby & Snow.

We are happy to know that there are physicians in our school who have given attention to the scientific treatment of the diseases of that noble and useful animal, the horse. That our art is competent to the relief and cure of many, or most of the diseases incident to this animal, we have reason to believe.

The Homœopathic treatment has been successfully adopted in many places in Europe,

and in this country, and we are happy to publish the letter of Dr. Piper as evidence of the interest felt in this subject, and for an occasion to urge our brethren to study these diseases and qualify themselves to prescribe Homœopathically for them.

We have some experience in treating horses upon the Homœopathic law, and so far as it goes, we can say that the remedies act promptly, and in the higher, attenuations.

In regard to the distemper which has been so prevalent in this region, we have had no opportunity of seeing the disease, or of treating it.

We hope to see the time when these valuable animals, so much prized by man, will be supplied with those remedial agents which homœopathy furnishes in such abundance; and that the present most injurious and most cruel methods of treating sick horses will be abandoned. This can only be done by scientific Physicians well versed in Homœopathy. It is possible that more has been done in this respect than we know of, and therefore we solicit information on this subject. We are aware that ignorance, prejudice and interest, and perhaps ridicule, will oppose a reform in this respect. We shall refer again to this subject.

The following extract of a letter agrees so fully with our own minds, that we shall offer no apology for presenting it, for the consideration of the friends of this Journal.

BATH, (ME.,) September 11, 1846.

Gentlemen:—

I hope you will find yourselves liberally sustained in your enterprise, for I think you are doing much for the cause and spread of Homœopathia. The Journal seems well calculated to awake an interest in the minds of the laity; and every Homœopathic physician should make it a part of his duty to extend its circulation.

My engagements have been such that I have not yet found time to redeem my promise to give you something for the Journal. I hope to do so soon.

Yours respectfully and truly,

W. E. PAYNE, M. D.

### HIGH POTENCIES.

We lately cured a case of quinsy in forty-eight hours, with Merc. viv. 200

The patient, of a full plethoric habit, is subject to severe attacks of tonsilitis. Under Allopathic treatment, she is usually sick with it



three weeks ; under homœopathic treatment when the lower attenuations have been used, she has been sick nearly two weeks.

This attack was as severe as any former one. The tonsils were greatly swollen, with swelling and intense redness of the throat, and swelling of the tongue ; tongue coated white ; profuse accumulation of mucous ; throbbing, and great pain in the glands ; shooting pains, extending into the ear ; impossibility of speech and deglutition. The sufferings were aggravated by cold. The symptoms were entirely relieved in forty-eight hours after the administration of the remedy. This condition had existed a day or two prior to her having taken this remedy.

We chanced, a day or two since, to fall in with an old man, for whom, a year ago, we prescribed for rheumatism, complicated with urinary difficulties of some months standing. He had been subject to rheumatism for years. He complained of severe aching pains in his back, loins, and limbs ; sometimes sharp pains, which moved about. The pains were aggravated by repose. There was some swelling of the joints, and sensibility to pressure. He was at times quite lame. There was difficulty of urination, accompanied by stinging pricking pains ; urine small in quantity.

Two doses of Pulsatilla, 30, (one at night and one the following morning) effected immediate relief, for which he expressed gratitude, and says he has not since been troubled.

S.

ERRATA.—On page 137, No. 12 of the Journal, in the date of Hahnemann's letter, read 1816 ; and on page 138 read aged 23, instead of April 23d ; also on page 133, in Dr. Wells' paper, instead of "Have *such cases ever* been realized from the use of other means ?" read "Have *such cures ever* ;" on page 134, same article, strike out "and which these cured ;" and in the same column for "excruciating" read "excoriating."

The names of Dr. Bauer, of Cincinnati Ohio ; and Dr. Theodore S. Williams, of Germantown Pa., were omitted in the list of members of the American Institute of Homœopathy.

HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY AT THE Apollo Rooms, 410 Broadway. Open daily (Sunday excepted,) at 12, M.

Physicians in attendance, Mondays and Thursdays, Drs. Kirby and Barlow ; Tuesdays, Drs. Cook and Snow ; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Drs. Quin and Bowers ; Fridays, Drs. Joslin and Bayard.

#### HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Smith's Homœopathic Pharmacy, is removed to No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. John T. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules ; Arnica flowers ; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions : also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French ; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz : Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I.

New York, Saturday, November 7, 1846.

NO. 14.

DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOV. 7, 1846.

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## HOMŒOPATHY IS PROGRESSIVE.

(Continued.)

Most men are accustomed to believe what they are taught, and to receive opinions from others without examining the grounds by which they can be supported. This is true of medicine, more, perhaps, than in any thing else; for

it is a fact, that the allopathic *practice* of medicine differs very little, if any, from that of the ancients. Theories in regard to diseases have often changed; the treatment however, has continued about the same. At the present time diseases are better understood; in truth, it is doubtful if we shall ever approximate clearer or more correct views of disease, so far as practical purposes are concerned. If this is not so, after the labor that has been bestowed on the question, what is disease? for the last two thousand and more years; then, we feel inclined to give up any further attempts to furnish an answer to this question. The conviction is forced upon us, that for all useful purposes, enough is known to enable the well-instructed physician to recognize the character of every disease he may be required to treat. We wish it understood, however, that we are not ignorant of the complaints which allopathic writers make of the want of what they term a "natural history of diseases;" and also, a more extended and exact record of morbid anatomy; together with a hundred other things expressed by terms of equivocal meaning; which may be heard in almost every introductory lecture of our medical colleges. It has become quite the fashion of the day to discourse on our imperfect knowledge of disease. We doubt very much, if the profession possessed all the information which allopathic writers contend for, beyond what we now know of diseases, if a single life would be saved thereby. Of all the errors which have got into practical medicine, none is more mischievous than that which says, "if we only know a disease, the cure is easy enough,—it comes of itself." This is taught in the French school, and we are mortified to know that the American physicians receive this, as well as almost all other doctrines of that school, without examining the grounds by which they are supported. This doctrine is spreading among the people of this country, as every physician of experi-



ence must be aware when he is reminded of the frequent applications simply for an opinion of the character of a disease. It has become an almost daily occurrence for the sick, to call on a physician, and say to him—"Doctor, I do not wish you to prescribe for me; I only want you to tell me, what my disease is." Why do they seek this information? It is because they believe, that if they only know what their disease is, the cure is easy;—"it comes of itself."

We have assumed that for all useful purposes we know enough of diseases. And, even in the allopathic school we see here and there an indication of the same views of this matter; for this school, has actually proposed the next important question: "How may diseases be cured?" Now, we contend, that every rational attempt to answer this question will give progression to homœopathy. In our judgement, in the very nature of the thing, it cannot be otherwise. In no one instance as yet, so far as we know, has this question been considered, but the insufficiency, and in some instances, the utter uselessness of the allopathic *materia medica* has been acknowledged. Propose the question, "How may diseases be cured?" and it is at once perceived, that an exact knowledge of what remedial agents can do in the human system is essential to furnish the answer. It is the very first necessary thing to be done. Can the *materia medica* and *therapeutics* of allopathy furnish this information? They cannot. Where then shall we go for it? To the homœopathic school, its *materia medica* and *therapeutics*. Gentlemen may sneer and ridicule this view of the subject; but we assert a truth;—to the *materia medica pura* of Hahnemann we must come,—it cannot be avoided.

The evidence that the plan of Hahnemann to form a *materia medica*, and a true system of *therapeutics* is so clear, so natural, so strong, and so convincing, that the conviction and confirmation of its truth, is forced upon us; it will not—it cannot be resisted.

The old school is destitute of a *materia medica*; and as a consequence, it has no *therapeutics*; that is, not knowing the remedial agents, it can have no rules for their application in diseases.

Another argument full of force, and tending to the same point is this;—that the doctrine of specifics is assuming an importance in the allopathic school. She has acknowledged the principle already, and the term has been employed by her writers for a long time. And,

although, the french school has of late years tried to prove that there is no such thing as *specifics* in medicine, which she thought was necessary to do, to give plausibility and the semblance of truth to her pathology and physiology, yet she has failed to do it; and at this moment, the conviction lives in the great minds of the profession, that drugs have a specific effect in the cure of diseases. Therefore we think it clear, that whenever the doctrine of specifics prevails, as it surely will, for this doctrine must be received, or a true *materia medica*, and a true system of *therapeutics* can never be formed,—and as this will be accomplished,—homœopathy must necessarily progress, for it is a part of it.

We know well that few of the elder members of the profession can receive the doctrines of Hahnemann, because they have been taught other doctrines; and from their youth up they have carefully excluded all doubts of every thing in which they were instructed. We are not of those who declaim harshly against those of the profession who do not see with our eyes; we would be unreasonable to do so. We cannot, as some have done, count all physicians who oppose homœopathy as knaves or fools; for many of them are men of great ability, and of undoubted integrity. The doctrines and practice of Hahnemann are so unlike those which have prevailed for hundreds of years, that the antiquity of the latter, is felt as a powerful obstacle to the reception of the former. For so deeply rooted are the doctrines, but especially the practice of the ancients, that we can but wonder, how Hahnemann ever secured a single convert from among the educated of the profession: so difficult is it for the well-instructed physician to leave the beaten track, which thousands upon thousands have trod for 2000 years: under these circumstances, that homœopathy should have progressed at all, is evidence of its truth. It has met with all sorts of opposition—yet it progresses.

It shall be our purpose, and it is that of homœopathy to answer the question; "*How may diseases be cured?*" We contend that the principle *similia similibus curantur* is the true law of cure, and the only legitimate and scientific rule to guide the physician in his selection of remedies for the sick; this can hardly be questioned by any who thoroughly understand and are able fully to comprehend it, in its extent and relations. It may fairly be considered the established law in medicine;—it conflicts with none other, and is found to be invariable in its

operations. Were this not so, it would have been long since discovered by those interested in medicine and in science generally, and competent to test its applicability and truth.

That it is so, we have abundant and overwhelming testimony, of a positive and irrefragable character, to prove. We may, therefore, insist, as a matter of fact, that this law in therapeutics is true;—that drugs, will cure conditions in the sick, *similar* to such as they produce in the healthy.

Being true, it stands as a basis of practical medicine. It requires that in the administration of remedies to dynamically disturbed or diseased conditions of the system, the physician shall select such as are known to be capable of producing *similar* conditions; the effects of which upon the system, shall *resemble* the effects produced by the cause of the disturbance, in each case of sickness. This law has governed for years, thousands of scientific physicians in all parts of the civilized world; *unconditionally* have they adhered to it as true and immutable. "The genius of Hahnemann has erected a system of practical medicine, *raising it to a rank of positive science*, and replacing conjecture by a sound and unerring principle. It has not only maintained its position, but has been progressing during fifty-five years of severe trial and persecution, and is therefore not likely to share the fate of other new (*so called*) systems which its adversaries have been so ready to predict."

"The disciples of Hahnemann, of whom a small number had collected round him from the beginning, shared the persecution of their illustrious master; and the fierceness of opposition to him and his system grew more violent and uncompromising, in proportion as its advocates, both professional and unprofessional, increased. However, opposition to a practical science like Homœopathy, where facts produce more powerful effect than the best arguments, has not only not impeded its progress, but on the contrary has accelerated its diffusion very materially. And when its adversaries fight with the arms of abuse, instead of those of science, which has hitherto always been the case with regard to Homœopathy, the friends of the latter become in proportion more firm and enthusiastic. Blind hostility can no more prevent or even retard the full establishment of Homœopathy, than opposition has been able to prevent the establishment of railways, or has interfered with the general adoption of steam

vessels, or of any other of the many extraordinary discoveries of modern times, which are founded in truth. Thus, in spite of all opposition, the system of Homœopathy has spread, and taken root in every part of the civilized world. The disciples and admirers of Hahnemann have established homœopathic hospitals, dispensaries, periodicals, and societies, in different parts of the Continent and Great Britain, as well as in America; the homœopathic literature counts several hundred separate works in various languages; there are now more than two thousand professional men who openly avow their adherence to it, and a great number who have adopted its principles and, actuated by various motives, do not publicly come forward as Homœopaths; the number of its unprofessional friends among the best educated and most intelligent portion of the public in every country is so great and rapidly increasing, that the want of properly informed homœopathic physicians is severely felt every where. The present state of Homœopathy is most satisfactory, and we may look to the future with well founded hope and confidence. "No body has a right," says an illustrious statesman, "to disturb, paralyse, or impede the intellectual progress of mankind. Such attempts always prove powerless in the end. The feeble human arm cannot long counteract the laws of nature, nor overthrow the order of the universe. Man may effect much if he confines himself to its external track; but he is soon seized, hurried away, and crushed by the great wheel of time, if he attempts to give it a retrograde motion."

#### OUR MATERIA MEDICA.

To take the healthy man—the vital power undisturbed—sustaining the play of all his functions in harmony and giving him a drug until a derangement of that vital power has taken place, then with accurate observation to mark all the aberrations from health, and this not upon one individual, but upon many, not upon one sex, but upon both—to record all the effects upon which there rests not a doubt, is the source of our Materia Medica. How firm and broad the basis—how sure the superstructure, resting on facts—no new discovery can alter it, but confirm it, and no new theories can overturn it. How important to a physician to know all the power of a drug about to be administered to the sick, whose frame is all alive to its impressions. If the healing principle of the great Hahnemann be untrue, still his la-



bors in this respect are not lost : we know what is the disturbing power of the remedy used, and can recognise it in its action. But thanks to the Creator of the Universe, the law of healing as taught by Hahnemann is true, and knows no exception. We can cure diseases and need not employ doses that poison the patient, and make him feel in after life that the remedy was worse than the disease. It is a blessing indeed—a blessing not yet fully appreciated by the world, as they know not the effects of large doses—how deeply they are impressed on the human organism,—how slowly they make a shipwreck of the constitution—how alternate their action; at one time apparently ceasing all effects and causing the poor sufferer to believe that he is at length struggling to health, then overwhelming him with a dark wave that either extinguishes hope, or rolls over, again to roll back with increased force. The cause of all this disturbance is not suspected ; for the disturbing effects of the last drug swallowed was not sufficiently known to be identified. Is it not passing strange, that there can be found men professing to understand the Homœopathic Materia Medica and its practice—the truths it reveals—the action of drugs in the hands of Allœopathists, to them not known—the long duration of their effects, lasting sometimes months, years, and often ending only with life—how easy the human organism in disease is deranged ; yet with all this before them, would leave a certainty, for an uncertainty, when guessing will produce an irreparable mischief, and plunge into the uncertain sea of empiricism and prescribe a drug whose effects are but partially known.

Hahnemann, so full of experience, so accurate in statement, so single eyed, says, “ An infinitely greater number of diseases are cured by these means, (Homœopathic) and in a far safer and more certain manner, than by a treatment guided by the general and special therapeutics of Allœopathy, with all its unknown and mixed medicines, which only alter and impare, but cannot cure chronic diseases, and rather retard than promote recovery from those that are acute.” They apologise for the desertion and assert, they cannot find a similitude to the diseases they would cure in our Materia Medica—not, that it is not there, but they have not the patience, the industry, or the time to seek it out ; or perhaps the ability is wanting to discriminate between remedies which have many things in common—aye, there’s the rub. It requires exact and close

attention and constant study to practice Homœopathy well. It is far easier to suppress an intermittent fever with quinine, than to note with accuracy the duration of the chill with its conditions ; the character of the fever with its conditions ; and the character of the sweat and its conditions ; and the state of the patient during the absence of the paroxysm, and then with discrimination select the remedy most like the state of the sufferer.

Hahnemann understood these gentleman when he asks who of our every day colleagues would undertake such laborious researches ? when he can tap upon his well-filled receipt-book and say, “ Thou art my comfort ; never can I be in doubt what to prescribe when I have thee at hand. It may go with my patients as it likes ; I am quite safe. These receipts of the learned masters, as long as I prescribe them, no person can find fault with me.” In lieu of Homœopathic remedies they would thus take the light empiricism furnishes ; but for this inconsiderate rashness let Hahnemann himself rebuke them. “ What a reprobate course that is to pursue, when called to the aid of a sick person, to make him still worse in consequence of some absurd preconceived notions, and, without caring about the selection of the proper remedy, to rob him of the remainder of his health, of his life itself, with inappropriate, consequently injurious drugs.” “ The present age, with its evident tendency to increasing sympathy and warm philanthropy (the greatest of virtues) will certainly not submit longer to this lavish and hard-hearted waste of human life ; and hence it will know how to appreciate the divine revelation of the pure actions of remedies which Homœopathy has given to the world, a knowledge of which is indispensable to the true physician, to enable him to restore (when lost) that most precious of all earthly possessions—health, and so to raise himself to rank among the greatest benefactors of humanity.”

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#### HOMŒOPATHY DISAPPROVES OF THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF MINERAL WATERS AND SEA BATHING.

As it is an unalterable principle in Homœopathic practice, not to make use of any medicinal agents for the cure of diseases the effects of which have not been previously ascertained with clearness and precision, it cannot, of

course, approve of the usual random practice of drinking mineral waters and of bathing in the sea. With the exceptions of the waters of Teplitz, the exact effects on the human body of none of this large class of medicinal agents have yet been ascertained, and long experience ought to have shown by this time, how very precarious their good effects are in most cases, and how injurious they prove to many. Each of the different mineral waters, whether sulphureous, chalybeate or saline, has its own specific effects on the human frame, and the only rational method of employing them for the cure of diseases would be to select them according to the similarity of their effects on the frame in health. In order to procure the good effects, which the patient vainly expects, unless the waters are specifically adapted to his case, an immoderate quantity is usually drunk, which finally effects a strong derivation upon the intestinal canal or the urinary organs, and may thus produce, like other derivatives, temporary relief. From this effect, combined with change of air and scene, active exercise, absence of strong mental exertion, the pleasures of society, &c.; patients frequently derive a marked benefit from their visit to the spas. But the disappearance of these causes is generally followed by disappearance of the benefit, and in most cases the disorder which was supposed to be radically cured, reappears in its former shape and intensity. They thus act, in most cases, only as palliatives, and like all other remedies of that kind, finally fail of producing the desired effect. But in many cases they do not even produce a temporary benefit, on the contrary injure the patient's health and constitution most decidedly; and this is a much more frequent effect than is generally supposed by the public. According to their different chemical composition they often produce tendency of blood to the head, weakness of digestion, piles, liver complaint, gravel, chronic irritation of the intestinal canal, and many minor chronic symptoms which are seldom attributed to their right cause.

Much the same remarks apply to the indiscriminate practice of bathing in the sea. Sea-water being a compound of five or six powerful medicinal agents, must, like all other medicines, have its own specific morbid effects on the human frame, and could only be recommended with a rational expectation of benefit according to those effects, if they were properly known. Such, however, not being the case, it is for the present a mere random prac-

tice to recommend sea-bathing in any case, and unless people know from experience, that it agrees with them, they expose themselves to all its numerous bad effects, particularly if practised in the usual injudicious manner.

We quote in conclusion the following very judicious remarks of Sir Arthur Clarke on the subject: "We now come to the examination of a practice which has prevailed in all ages and all nations," and one that may be classed among the many subjects which, to the casual observer, seem to demand neither medical skill nor study nor consideration of any kind. I mean the practice of sea-bathing; for not only do most people imagine they understand this matter sufficiently for their own guidance, but affect to become the advisers of others as to its value and efficacy. It does not, however, follow, that what is thus supposed to be understood by all, is really understood by any; and it is now an unquestionable fact, that many of the most popular and universally received maxims connected with sea-bathing, are diametrically opposed to the soundest medical opinions of the present day, and to the most unquestionable facts and experience. Yet to hint that bathing in the sea is not as universally beneficial to the human frame, as breathing the fresh air, would, until very lately, have been met with the sneers of incredulity or considered as the proof of folly or of ignorance."

"On subjects which concern even health, convenience and comfort, mankind generally adopt the traditional opinions of their neighborhood or country, without the trouble of thinking or judging for themselves; the universality of a custom being regarded as a safer test than the most enlightened enquiry, or the most convincing facts and experience."

"I know no subject to which these observations are more explicable than the one before us."

"To the inhabitants of a country possessing an extensive line of sea-coast, bathing becomes almost habitual; and being in general associated with many agreeable circumstances, it assumes the character of a positive enjoyment."

"It is necessarily accompanied with a change of scene, air, and situation; it requires exercise, and involves a relaxation from business. So many cases are also recorded, and in every one's mouth, of restored appetite, strength and health, resulting from the practice, that it is regarded as a sort of panacea;



and to question its efficacy, is only to risk the imputation of being too timid or too wise."

"In the teeth, however, of these alarming denunciations, I hazard the assertion, that there is not a more prolific source of colds, consumptions and chronic diseases, than sea-bathing, as practised in this country and in Great Britain."

"Not only do those who live near the sea-coast think it necessary to enjoy this health-insuring custom, but those residing even at a distance of fifty miles in the interior of our island migrate in thousands, with their whole families to the nearest coast, to have the benefit of a month or six weeks' sea-bathing, and thus lay in a store of health to carry them over the rigors of the winter. Those who have witnessed the crowds that yearly visit the shores of Dublin, Rostrevor, Belfast, and the whole coast of Antrim and Derry, can form a just conception of the indiscriminate nature of the practice. A single case of improved health becomes a motive for a whole neighborhood to visit the sea in the ensuing year; the medical nomenclature is brought into requisition, and each requires his annual corrective, or restorative, or alterative; while the mischief created by the practice, the victims it has destroyed, and the many constitutions it has undermined, and in which it has deposited the germ of future disease, debility and consumption, are either overlooked or placed to the account of other causes."

"In this way is custom established—in this way is health sported with—the male constitution is injured, and the female deranged. Where medical research and experience, however, have detected errors of any hitherto received opinion or custom, it is the part of the physician to lay before the public such communications as will compel the heedless to pause and the reflecting to think."

C. V., &c.

### HOMŒOPATHY THE ONLY TRUE PRINCIPLE IN THERAPEUTICS.

Understanding the peculiar and characteristic action of each drug or remedial agent upon the system, the physician is enabled to detect similar or corresponding action when the result of disease. Having the ability to recognize a condition of the system analogous to or like that which might be produced by some one or more drugs, his own good sense

and judgement would deter him from venturing, in such cases, upon crude or often repeated doses of such drugs. He would at once apprehend danger from the administration of remedies, the tendency of whose action is to move the vital current in a direction that the disturbing cause had already given it, and, obeying the natural impulse growing out of a knowledge of causes and effects, he would stay his course and touch the springs, so perfectly at his control, with a light hand. Conceiving the object to be attained—the indication to be fulfilled, his efforts would be, not to produce increased action, and drive on the deranged vital current in the wrong direction, lash its fury, and seek to overpower, rather than to guide its course and assuage its violence; but to establish a reaction, and to set up a counter current in the roused energies of the vital power, and restore its accustomed equilibrium.

Fully appreciating the subtle nature of the vital principle, its extreme susceptibility (unsurpassed by any thing we know in nature) to the influence of the various agents which, being in harmony with, are capable of moving and disturbing it, how cautious would he be to exhibit a counter disturbing agent approaching to, simulating it, in nature, in subtlety and spirituality.

Knowing the specific action and effects of drugs upon the human system—carefully recognising and recording the effects of any disturbing agent—understanding both the characteristic symptoms of the disease, and of the drug, the physician could readily determine the effect of his remedies in any given case, whether given in an opposite condition to such as they will produce, or in one corresponding to it, like it.\*

Should he find that, in selecting a remedy whose action is opposite to the existing condition, he produced no effects either alterative merely, or curatively so, he would discover in this no principle, no relation, no rule to guide him in other cases. Should he in selecting remedies whose action is like that of the disease, produce an aggravated condition, he would suspected some natural relation of the remedy to it. Should he thus establish an immediate and curative reaction, he would be convinced that he had discovered a principle of cure, a relation between his remedies and disease, and a rule to guide him in their selection. If he find his remedies producing curative alterations of the vital power when given in conditions simulating their own pathogenetic

effects, and not when administered upon an opposite principle, he would conclude he had discovered the true, and the only principle upon which the curative effects of drugs are produced.

"The curative powers of medicines being no wise discoverable in themselves; a fact which few will venture to dispute; and pure experiments which have been made even by the most skilful observers not exhibiting any thing to our view which could be capable of rendering them medicines or curative remedies, except the faculty which they possess of producing manifest changes in the general state, particularly with persons in health, in whom they excite morbid symptoms of a very decided character. We ought to conclude from this that when medicines act as remedies, they cannot exercise their curative virtue but by the faculty which they possess of modifying the general state of the economy, and giving birth to peculiar symptoms. Consequently, we ought to rely solely upon the morbid appearances which medicines excite in healthy persons, the only possible manifestation of the curative virtues which they possess, in order to learn what malady each of them produces individually, and at the same time what diseases they are capable of curing."

"But, as we can discover nothing to remove in disease in order to change it into health, except the *ensemble* of the symptoms; as we also perceive nothing curative in medicines but their faculty of producing morbid symptoms in persons who are healthy, and of removing them from those who are diseased. It very naturally follows that medicines assume the character of remedies, and become capable of annihilating disease in no other manner than by exciting particular appearances or symptoms; or to express it more clearly, a certain artificial disease which destroys the previous symptoms;—that is to say, the natural disease which they intend to cure. On the other hand, if we wish to destroy the entire symptoms of a disease, we ought to choose a medicine which has a tendency to excite *similar* or *opposite* symptoms, according to that which experience may point out to us as the easiest, safest, and most permanent means of removing the symptoms of the disease, and of restoring health, whether it be by opposing to the latter medicinal symptoms that are *similar* or *contrary*."

### DR. WELLS.—No. 3.

Messrs Editors:

It has been stated that the fact that highly attenuated drugs have power to cure disease is capable of *proof*. Any competent man may know it if he will. He is not to suppose that the evidence of this will force itself into his mind against his will or without his consent. Knowledge of any subject is not obtained so, and in the knowledge of this there is nothing to render it an exception. In the same way that he gathers the evidence of any truth let him seek the proofs of this, and if he proceeds with a diligent hand and a spirit willing to be instructed by the facts which meet him in his way, he will not be long left to the indulgence of complaisant, "want of confidence;" nor will he find it easy again to be guilty of derision or invective of those whose only sin against him has been the possession of a truth he lacked. Let him not suppose that this investigation can be properly entered on without in the first place, some knowledge of the *Materia Medica*. Not that jumble of inanity and contradictions under this name we were obliged to plod through in the schools, but of that which contains a record of the positive effects of drugs on the body in a state of health. Let him take a case of disease with well marked symptoms, gather *all* those symptoms according to the directions of the *Organon*—and there are no others which can compare with them—let him commit these symptoms, thus obtained, to writing, in so clear a manner that any intelligent man in the profession can understand them, then let him compare them with the effects of drugs recorded in our *Materia Medica*, and select that one which has been ascertained to produce symptoms *most like* those he has recorded, and then give the attenuated drug, and after waiting a proper time, if *no effect follows*, let him make a record of the fact. Let him repeat observations in this manner, and if he obtains no results, when he has made a sufficient number to prove the truth or falsehood of any other important matter, and these all show no effect from the doses, let him publish the facts he has observed, and he can thus bring legitimate disgrace on such doses and those who advocate them. By indulgence in "want of confidence," resting content upon supposed "improbabilities," and resort to invective and ridicule he will merely bring disgrace on himself. If these could have destroyed the doctrines of Hahnemann, they would long since have sunk un-



der the storms which have fallen on their heads. But, sirs, they have left no scar on any one of the truths he taught. These still remain clear as the sun, and fair as the moon. They have never suffered save from obscuring clouds thrown over their clear front by *professed friends*. These have given the deadliest thrusts when, Judas like, they have been ready to betray with insinuations of the inadequacy of potentized drugs to cure the diseases they are at times called to treat, and to fly to the miserable resources of the school they professed to have abjured and abandoned: insinuations which you know well have foundation only in individual incompetency to apply those potences for the cure of those diseases. Such recreancy may and has injured the progress of the truth—but ridicule and invective only “return to plague the inventor.” The true followers of Hahnemann have never feared these pitiful weapons, but they have had, and still have reason to dread the temporary influence of such pusillanimity and turpitude on the part of nominal members of their own school. I say *temporary*, because it is well understood that the issue of this will inevitably be, they only will fall into the pit which their own hands have digged. The ignorant may regard such insinuations as concessions demanded by truth and candor, and such practice as evincing minds too large for the narrow limits imposed by party and prejudice; but the intelligent will not fail to appreciate both and refer them to their true source. Sirs, the authors of these will ultimately get to themselves a character, although at present they only seem to wound the truth, and in the minds of some, disgrace its friends. And if the character they achieve be such as is satisfactory to themselves, the true friends of Homœopathy will be spared one painful experience they cannot but anticipate: they will not be called to sympathise with the regrets which disappointment is certain to excite in those who have been their supposed friends.

But why this dread, if the evils instanced are destined to cure themselves! Because the progress of any truth in our world is but too slow, under the most favorable circumstances, for the best welfare of our race, and where so great an amount of educated influence strongly excited self interest, and sedulously inculcated prejudice are to be overcome, as in the case of the truths of Hahnemann, its advancement is sufficiently laborious and difficult, to demand all the energies and patience its friends are likely to bring to its support. The obstacles *from*

*without* are enough and more than enough to try the courage of most men, and from these some even turn away discouraged; but if the greater evils *from within* are added to the amount, is not the sum of difficulty so great as to warrant a dread of temporary disaster? The professed homœopathist is supposed to understand the matter, to have proved the inadequacy he insinuates, and to have ascertained, experimentally, the insufficiency of the means he abandons, and the superior efficacy of those to which he resorts in emergency. And if this be so, the plain inference to most minds, who have not learned for themselves the facts, is, that the *greater power to cure is in allopathic means*, and the practice of these men is adduced confidently as proof of the correctness of their conclusion. And who shall say if the premises be true, that their conclusion is not just? I have reason to know that to many intelligent minds this practice is perfectly convincing proof not only of the worthlessness of homœopathia, but of the knavery of those who practice these resorts in emergencies, and yet pretend to the superiority of homœopathia in general, and would be themselves regarded as its practitioners. If there be any well-grounded reasons for these resorts, other than such as belong to the individuals themselves, I ask, are not their conclusions just? If homœopathia be not adequate to emergencies it is not the thing its friends pretend; and it is neither worth defending nor preserving. If it be not equal to emergencies, its advocates *are* impostors—the very impostors its opponents have declared them to be. They have proclaimed it nothing less than the great law of specifics, and are not specifics equal to emergencies? The truth is, sirs, this class of practitioners stand in precisely the same relation to the whole affair as those other men who are content with *skepticism* and *improbabilities*. They, if they are honest men, are yet to gain that knowledge of the *materia medica*, and institute those experiments which are sufficient to establish the truth or falsehood of any assumed facts in the premises. If they have already entered on the proof and have ascertained the insufficiency of homœopathic means, why are they still its pretended practitioners? If they have not, whence then are these insinuations? and why these unworthy resorts in practice? If homœopathia be only equal to the cure of diseases, which if let alone will cure themselves, or at most require only the feebleness of means, then it is utterly worthless, as its enemies have contended, for it is evident, *a fortiori*,

that that which has power to overcome the greater has power to overcome the less—and allopathy is adequate to all our wants—we have only to understand that and we are masters at once of the great means of healing. If there be in the nature of the case, any foundation for this “mixed practice,” the judgement of worthlessness and knavery is just. If there be no such ground, and it is contended most earnestly that there is none, is there not great evil in this course, when it leads to such estimates of truth, and of truth, too, no less important than the health of our race; and is not temporary impediment to the progress of such truth a legitimate cause of alarm?

### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

“The causes of disease are of two descriptions: the one, among other deleterious agents, embraces mechanical inquiries, errors in quantity or quality of our diet; chemical changes of the atmosphere, together with many moral and physical affections. This class of disturbing causes gives rise to diseases of simple inflammation, to neurosis, hemorrhages, dropsies, and to those morbid secretions or depositions which occasion diabetes, cancer, phthisis or other malady, according to the idiosyncrasy of the patient.

“The other description of causes are miasmata, secreted either by the patient's person, or else generated by other sources, known or unknown, and which contaminate the healthy recipient either through the medium of the atmosphere or by direct contact. This class of causes engenders diseases of a specific character, as syphilis, typhus fever, scarlet fever, small-pox,” &c.\*

The author above, as is quite characteristic of all allopathic writers, has confounded the *exciting* causes of disease with the latent, inherent, predisposing cause existing in the system; and which only awaits the operation of the “disturbing causes” above enumerated, to develop it—to rouse it into action. “Idiosyncrasy” is used to express a peculiar habit or conformation of body by which the same agent makes a different impression on different individuals, or an unaccountable liability of some individuals to be affected by certain agents which do not disturb others at all.

It is the predisposition of individuals to be

affected by one or the other of the many peculiar disturbing agents that constitutes idiosyncrasy. In the absence of which (idiosyncrasy) it is not to be credited that the ordinary disturbing causes would produce ‘diabetes,’ ‘cancer,’ ‘phthisis,’ or ‘dropsy.’

This idiosyncrasy, or predisposition to the influence of the exciting causes of disease, must be owing to the existence of some virus which has impressed the system, in a manner peculiar to itself, and which has in itself a tendency to fasten upon some one or more organs or tissues, or is determined upon them, by the operation of the *exciting causes*. Of the existence of this latent virus, as the origin and cause of the innumerable chronic affections, there is abundant reason to believe. Of the nature of it there is doubt and ignorance. To give it a name no more reveals its nature than does that of cholera or small-pox explain the mystery in which the undetected causes of those violent diseases is enshrouded.

Having invaded the system it produces a permanent impression, and as prior to its invasion, the vital action was established—determined in a manner peculiar to health—to the normal condition of the system; so now it is determined by the nature of the miasm which has impressed it. The vital action is altered, and now corresponds to the influence of the disturbing cause, and the change is permanent: the impression remains to the end of life, unless it be opposed by an antidote—by a specific remedy, having the power to rid the system of the evil and restore the vital power to its natural and healthy action.

When this idiosyncrasy does not exist, the system will resist the influence of bad diet, “chemical and mechanical changes of the atmosphere,” and all sorts of “deleterious influences,” or only suffer from their operation, inconveniences, which disappear with the causes giving rise to them.

The capacity for endurance which the constitution under such circumstances possesses is astonishing. There are individuals who defy the ordinary exciting causes of disease; laugh at the circumstances which are so fraught with apprehension and danger to others; ridicule the *causes* from which others retreat in horror.

Where this “*idiosyncrasy*,” does exist, the slightest injury becomes a serious difficulty; the least change in diet is followed by the severest sufferings; the change of the atmosphere is anticipated by a long list of ailments; and exciting moral affections produce general

\* William's Elements of Medicine.



disturbance and often the most evil consequences.

Diabetes, cancer, phthisis, &c. then, are owing to a latent virus or miasm in the system, which becomes developed under the influence of certain disturbing causes.

The chronic affections have existed since the earliest period of human history. The miasm giving rise to them, in its secondary form, has always afflicted mankind, and has been transmitted from generation to generation.

### CASES

FROM DR. KIRBY'S CASE BOOK.

Sept. 17th, 1846.—Miss R. C., aged 22; tall and slim; light blue eyes; light hair; face pale. Had a catarrh in February last, with cough, pain in the chest and headache. Took an advertised medicine. The cough went off after a while, but the pain in the chest continued. About a month ago an allœopathic physician advised a blister on the chest, pills and other medicines; all of which was complied with. She is now very feeble and emaciated; cannot take much exercise; has a cough and raises a frothy matter streaked with blood; occasionally the matter expectorated is thick and greenish. A recumbent position causes coughing, and shortness of breath. The upper part of the right side of the chest, and also across the middle of it, feels sore and hurts on full breathing; also, sharp pains in right side of the chest, like stitches; voice feeble—it exhausts her to converse. Chills every afternoon, followed by a hot skin and flushed face, and profuse sweat at night. She is uneasy at night and does not sleep well. Dull heavy pain in the temples. Bowels regular; catamenia regular. There is tenderness in some part of spinal column on pressing upon it. Pressing upon the *gangliâ* along the dorsal portion of the spine, causes severe shooting pains in the right side, and middle of the chest. She says, "I have a gone, weak, and sinking feeling at the pit of the stomach, especially in the morning, soon after rising from bed; also a tenderness or sore feeling at pit of the stomach." Pulse, 120.

This record was taken at 2 o'clock P. M. Although the entire case did not indicate *aconite*; yet, on account of the stitches and shooting pains in the chest; three pellets of the 30th att. of that drug were placed upon her tongue. And Phos. 30th att., three pellets, to be taken the following morning were given.

Sept. 28th. Miss R. C. called on me to-day, and stated, "I do not cough so much—feel very little oppression of the chest;—pain and soreness of it gone; I do not expectorate any blood, and very little of any thing. I am much stronger; my hoarseness nearly gone; voice clearer. I have walked nearly a mile and do not feel weary. I have no chills, but feel unnaturally warm every afternoon—do not sweat at night; appetite improved. Have lively and animated feelings. I can now lay down without coughing; breath freely, and it does not hurt me to breath; I sleep all night undisturbed."

In consequence of this clear evidence of improvement, no medicine was given.

Oct. 26. R. C. called to day. She said, "I do not feel sick at all. I should not have visited you again had you not sent for me, as I feel so well. I am much stronger; voice is a little weak; cough very slight; I am increasing in flesh. I do occasionally, of a morning, raise a little yellowish matter."

Gave sulph. 400, att. Requested her to call again in a month.

W. H. O. was brought to my office on the morning of Oct. 3d, 1846. His mother stated that he was one year old, and had always been well, until a week ago. A fever came on with looseness of the bowels; and since that time he has had from six to eight evacuations from his bowels daily, of matter, which is sometimes black or very dark; and at other times brownish, together with blood with much straining. There seems to be pain accompanying his evacuations, for he cries and moves his body as if he had colic pains. He has wasted in flesh very much; sleeps with his eyes half open. He is ill-tempered and cries a good deal. The evacuations take place mostly in the day time, and very seldom at night. He has been fed with "crackers, wheat bread, tea and other things."

Mercurius, arsenic, pulsat. and cham. are not indicated, inasmuch as the evacuations from the bowels are not at night; neither is the straining sufficiently violent for these; and the color of the discharges are not peculiar to these drugs; as several others have the same, as *Bryonia*, *Sepia*, *magnesia muriatica*, *phos.*, and *verat.*

The sickness of this child most likely is caused by errors of diet. *Nux vom.* is more frequently suited to affections arising from improper food than any other drug; and it seems appropriate to the whole case. Gave *Nux vom.* 200 att., two pellets.—Cured in 24 hours.

Oct. 15th, 1846. A. W. aged 14. Inflammation and swelling of the tonsils. Dryness of the throat. Sensation as if there was a tumor in the throat. Shivering, alternating with heat. Stinging in the throat, extending to the ears. *Bell.*, 30, and *Hepar sulph.*, 30th. Oct. 16th. Is well.

### CORRESPONDENCE WITH DR. FORBES.

We furnish our readers with another letter from our own country to Dr. F. We regret that the writer should have fallen into an error in charging the school of Homœopathy with publishing a "garbled" copy of Dr. F.'s paper. No such thing has been done, unless he refers to several reviews; in that case, he shows a want of candor. The fact is, the work was published entire in this city, and at the suggestion of the Physicians of our school.

We do not know who first propagated the slander, that the disciples of Hahnemann are deceivers; advocating and doing what they know to be false; and employing all sorts of trickery to dupe the public. We say, we do not know who first set a going this vile slander,—nor do we care to know, so long as we are conscious of its falsity; it is now returning, on the principle of reaction, with a mighty force upon the heads of those who were vile enough to aid in the attempt to disgrace a portion of the profession as talented, learned, industrious and honest as any part of it.

"———(America) Feb. 28th, 1846.

"The article has created quite a sensation here, and knowing well that it could be laid hold of by the homœopathists, and garbled as it has been, I myself was anxious that it should be reprinted in full, so that no permanent misrepresentation might exist. The favorable portion of your remarks has already been extracted by them (the homœopathists) yet they have not concealed that you are no homœopathist, and have endeavoured to show that you are not consistent, by contrasting your admissions in regard to the reform produced by the practice of Hahnemann with your exposition of its absurdities. The whole article accords signally with my own views. In regard to the 'agenda, cogitanda, &c.,' I have scarcely any objection to make. Whilst I lived in ——, I was generally regarded as an 'inert practitioner,' because I did not practice the energetic and heroic treatment universal there; and since then my remedial agencies have been considered to belong to a 'masterly inactivity.' I apprehend that in the progress of life, every one becomes less and less active; is more and more disposed to attend to the 'divinity that stirs within

us;' is less and less disposed to believe in the special adaptation of drugs to special and morbid conditions; and more and more in the great principles of hygiene and therapeutics. With one single admission only would I hesitate to accord. You ascribe immense influence to Hahnemann as a reformer of regular practice. In this country, his doctrine and course of treatment have had but little effect on the 'regulars.' In the cities they have long become less active; but if any one is entitled to the credit more than another here, it is Broussais. Nowhere, not even in France, were his views so extensively embraced; and under their adoption, the excessive bleedings of the Rush School and the hypercatharsis in use every where were abandoned, and a more rational and milder system introduced. The good sense of observers of the day has also, I apprehend, had much to do in bringing about this salutary reformation."

"In this country, his doctrine and course of treatment have had but little effect on the 'regulars,' &c. We ask the writer of the above letter on whom then has the doctrines and practice of Hahnemann had an effect? There are in this country probably one thousand professed adherents and practitioners of homœopathy, and more than four fifths of these, have been regularly educated in the profession, and are so acknowledged. Such a misrepresentation shows at least some effect on the writer of the above letter. Perhaps however, he is "one of those philosophers who see clear through every thing".

### DOSES AND THEIR REPETITION.

"Long experience has now sufficiently shown that there exists in practice no essential difference between the effect of one and a larger number of globules, nor between globules of different sizes, nor altogether between so called small and large homœopathic doses, and that the dispute about that matter is almost futile. If homœopathic practitioners were all equally well acquainted with their *Materia Medica*, and thus enabled to choose the *right medicine* in most cases, such dispute could scarcely have arisen. A much more important point in this dispute is that relating to the repetition of the doses. Hahnemann recommends, that once it is manifest to the physician, that the medicine has taken effect, he ought either to abstain from giving the medicine any further, or, at least, be exceedingly cautious in its repetition, and rather wait till it ceases to produce any further beneficial effects, when he may repeat or change it, as the case may require; that a frequent repetition, when it is



not necessary, often impedes the good effects of the medicine, or produces an aggravation of the disease. This simple and rational rule did not satisfy a number of spurious homœopaths, who, in their anxiety to perform the impossible task of uniting the two methods, Homœopathy and Allœopathy, thought this rule pedantic. Experience, however, has taught others, and, we believe, a number of themselves also, that Hahnemann's rule is the only true and really useful guide; and that the more closely the practitioner adheres to it, the greater are his chances of arriving at those brilliant results, which characterized the practice of Hahnemann."

Will our friends in the country, to whom the Journal is sent, so far oblige us as to forward their own, and if possible, the subscriptions of others friendly to Homœopathia and the efforts of the Journal to advance it? We have to republish some numbers, and shall soon have to make arrangements for an enlarged edition, and for these reasons, attention to this matter, at this time, would be esteemed an especial favor.

*A Manuel of Homœopathic Cookery, (18mo.) designed chiefly for the use of such persons as are under Homœopathic treatment. By the wife of a Homœopathic Physician. With additions by the wife of an American Homœopathic Physician.*

"The rapid advance which of late years has been made by Homœopathy, demands the perfection of its machinery in all directions, and among other things, the publication of a Cookery Book, constructed on principles of homœopathic dietetics, will, we think, be found to be not without its uses."

Published by Wm. Radde, New York.

C. L. Rademacher, Philadelphia.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I. New York, Saturday, November 21, 1846. NO. 16.

D R S. K I R B Y A N D S N O W, E D I T O R S.

DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 1846.

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## OBSTACLES TO THE PROGRESS OF HOMŒOPATHY.

One of the more prominent obstacles to the progress of Homœopathy, as we have before observed, is a departure on the part of some professed practitioners of it, from the established principles of the art.

No one can have correct and clear views of the doctrines and practice of Hahnemann [homœopathy] and at the same time have confidence in allopathy. If the one is true, the other is false. Again, there is but one way, so experience teaches, for physicians to become convinced that homœopathy is true; and that is, by experiment. Reading and reasoning alone, never, so far as we know, converted a single one. The experience of all true disciples of that truly great and good man [Hahnemann,] will show, that although they may have read and studied his writings, they remained unconvinced, until they saw the practice. When for example, they saw *Croup* cured by exceedingly small doses of *aconite*, *spongia* and *hepar sulphur*; and *pleurisy* cured in 24 hours with *aconite* of the 30th potency, without venesection. When they saw a recent syphilitic sore permanently cured in twenty days by at most three doses of *mercurius vivus* of the 30th, 24th and 12th potencies; when they saw chronic diseases of various kinds, pronounced incurable by the most learned and experienced of the profession, yield to a few doses of a medicine of a high potency; then, and not until then, did the testimony, almost with an irresistible force impress upon the mind the truth of *similia similibus curantur*, and the power of dynamized or attenuated drugs; and not the least shadow of a doubt remained, that homœopathy is true, and that allopathy is false. For whoever admits the truth of the one, must of necessity allow the falsity of the other. Therefore, to be convinced that homœopathy is true, and practice allopathy, is not only an absurdity, but as it seems to us, it has a property of criminality. Whoever believes the former system true, must and does declare the latter injurious and dangerous. If this be so, then, for a physician to do that for the sick, which he believes and acknowledges to be injurious and dangerous, cannot be justifiable.



It may be thought by some, that we urge extreme measures; this is not so; we do not advocate in this respect, measures at all; and for this reason, homœopathy is based upon laws—immutable in their character. We urge but two things:—that these laws should be carefully and thoroughly studied; and when understood—closely adhered to, in practice. We are aware, that owing to a long familiarity of physicians and patients with the ordinary treatment of the sick, even in the midst of doubts of its efficacy and safety, they are liable to overlook and actually do overlook the criminality that may be attached to a course of treatment of the sick, which in thousands of cases has proved pernicious. As for instance, what is not at the present day denied, but acknowledged; that thousands have been bled to death, under the false notion of curing an inflammation; and yet with these well established facts before them, some physicians, and some pretended homœopathists too, do not hesitate to bleed in inflammation. We do not see how it is possible for a genuine convert to homœopathy—a true disciple of Hahnemann, to have recourse under any circumstances to allopathy. There is no such thing as mixing nature's laws—there can be no amalgamation of opposite principles; yet careless, indolent or ignorant physicians may mix the practice.

But it is often asked: allow homœopathy to be true, is it competent to every emergency? Is it adapted to every case of sickness? We answer, if it is not, it is not true. This conclusion cannot be avoided. But what says experience? Not the experience of one man only—not the experience of all the physicians of the school of homœopathy in America, but also that of those of Europe, all these unite and declare it to be established, that homœopathy is competent to cure diseases more promptly, safely and pleasantly, than any other mode. But is our knowledge of medicines sufficiently accurate and extensive, to enable the well instructed homœopath to find remedies to meet every emergency? We answer, if it is not, there is no where else to go for aid. If the *Materia Medica* of the school of homœopathy, does not contain all the reliable knowledge we have of remedial agents, we know of no other, which can supply the lack. For on examination, it will be found that it embraces not only a record of what drugs have been known to do in the human system in health; but also many sufferings which have been cured by drugs, are recorded, and all, with a most remarkable

precision; and besides, every *Materia Medica*, and every work on poisons have been carefully examined, and all useful matter found in them have been carefully incorporated in that of the school of homœopathy. Therefore, so extensive are these records at the present time, that it is doubtful if any human suffering from disease, but may find its *similitude*.

Too many attempt to practice homœopathy, before they have studied it. We know physicians who witnessed the treatment and cure of single cases of *puerperal peritonitis* and *membranous croup* homœopathically; the following day to commence the practice, as they thought of homœopathy; not having yet read any work on the system; and we have good reason to believe that there are those who are regarded by the public as practitioners of homœopathy, who have never to this day, read the *Organon* of Hahnemann. Consequently, the mixed practice of which we complain, and which is so great an obstacle to the progress of homœopathy, arises from incompetent practitioners, and not from the imperfection of the system itself. There are certain laws to be studied, and so clear should they be, and so continually present to the mind, that they should seem to be almost a part of it. Every movement in the practice should correspond strictly with these laws. To accomplish which, will require study—close study. A physician once said to us: "I have succeeded in treating diseases according to Hahnemann, except the severe intermittent fevers of my neighborhood, which I treat with large and frequently repeated doses of *quinine*. Now it so happens that we know another physician who was converted to homœopathy by witnessing the prompt cure of these same intermittent fevers by a few doses of the 30th potency of the homœopathic remedy. Here we have two well authenticated facts. How are they to be explained? Easily enough. In the practice of the first, so terrible did the *chill* seem to him, and so great were his fears that a second *chill* would result in death—for so he stated, that he yielded to his fears and fell back upon his allopathic education. In the second, no such fear or alarm was allowed and the law of cure, and the suitable remedy in the known appropriate form, were strictly observed, and a happy result was expected and obtained.

Some practitioners of homœopathy make their own experience the criterion by which they judge of correct practice. This is clearly an error, and out of it comes mischief—the alleged incompetency of homœopathy.

The experience of a single individual in the treatment of diseases is not enough to establish any system, or any method of treating any one disease. "I will treat diseases in accordance with my knowledge" says a physician—who can object?—"I will do for the sick what I deem the most suitable"—who can object? these remarks *seem* plausible. But let us inquire, how did you obtain your knowledge? what is the source of it? and the answer is, "I got it from my own experience." This will not do. His knowledge, if it is of the right sort, and sufficient in extent, must come from the combined experience, founded upon fixed principles, of numerous intelligent physicians who have made known their experience together with the principles which governed them in obtaining it. As for example:

All true disciples of Hahnemann agree, that "like cures like" is the law of cure; and that the attenuation of the crude drug is necessary to enable it promptly and safely to respond to this law. And hundreds of them who are known to be competent to experiment and to judge, and of whose integrity there can be no question; have written and published the results of their experience of the homœopathic law and of the dilution of drugs, in the treatment of all kinds of diseases. All of which, furnishes an amount of testimony which on any other subject, would remove all doubts, and establish a truth.

In concluding this article, we will venture to intrude a brief history of our own conversion to homœopathy. In 1831, it was said to us, "do not yield your assent to the doctrines and practice of Hahnemann, until the evidence of their truth becomes irresistible to you." To this rule we strictly adhered; and having reached this point, from that moment, we have never had any cause to doubt the competency of homœopathy. We have found it to answer all reasonable expectations in acute and chronic diseases: true, we have met with cases that embarrassed us exceedingly, but by a steady eye upon the law of cure—a persevering study of the *Materia Medica*, we have been enabled to select the appropriate remedies, and lately, rarely administering them lower than the 30th potency, we have usually met with satisfactory, and occasionally, with astonishing results.

We have not for years resorted to allopathy, and as it regards the administration of cathartics, we do not remember to have been guilty of such folly since our adoption of Homœopathy. In incurable cases, such as advanced

*phthisis pulmonalis*, we select the medicine with as much care, as if we expected a cure; and by this means, we obtain all the palliation that can reasonably be desired to secure all possible comfort to the dying patient. And this, too, much more agreeable in many respects, than by large doses of morphine or other opiates or anodynes. It is our opinion, that palliation in incurable diseases, may be always secured by a medicine homœopathic to the case, and usually administered in a high attenuation, and not repeating it in the same attenuation. Finally, we urge upon physicians of our school, to be true to the principles developed by Hahnemann, and pay due respect to his mode of practice, if his brilliant results are desired.

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### THE NATURE OF SYMPTOMS.

There are many recorded cases of cure by Homœopathic means, of incipient *phthisis pulmonalis*—tubercular consumption. We think we have known such cases. We do not allude to cases in which the symptoms alone indicated the disease, but those in which the presence of tubercles had been detected by auscultation and percussion. We are not aware that knowing this disease to exist, we have a specific remedy to cure it. In the cases to which we refer, no one remedy was relied upon exclusively, neither were the same remedies used in each case. Therefore, a knowledge of the actual presence of tubercles, is not in itself an indication for the treatment. Such a condition before it can make much progress, must give rise to certain morbid symptoms, and these serve to indicate the remedy—they are so many signs hung out by nature as guides to art in her efforts to afford relief. "There is no curable malady nor any invisible changes in the interior of man, which admits of cure, that is not made known by morbid indications or symptoms to the physician of accurate observation—a provision entirely in conformity with the infinite goodness of the all-wise Preserver of men."

It is by carefully observing and recording the symptoms produced upon the human system by the various drugs used as remedies, by comparing the symptoms in any given case of disease, that the physician is enabled to select the appropriate remedy—it is upon this



principle, (this correspondence) that *cures* by homœopathic means are so constantly made. Did we know the exact alteration in structure a drug might be capable of producing—the precise (diseased) condition it would cause in any organ or tissue, *without* knowing any morbid symptoms such alteration might give rise to, it is possible that, knowing also the exact state of an organ or tissue in any case we were called upon to treat, that the drug known to cause a similar state might cure it. But this knowledge it is impossible always to obtain, either in regard to disease or drugs, and it is *unnecessary*.

In the treatment of phthisis pulmonalis above referred to, it was of no value to the physician in selecting his remedy, to know that tubercles existed in the lungs, and had he no other knowledge to guide him, there would be neither safety nor certainty in the prescriptions he might make; his practice, if he attempted any, must necessarily be empirical.

He could not proceed scientifically or philosophically from merely knowing the fact that tubercles existed; for they would not represent entirely the inherent cause—the miasm that gave rise to them; or if they did, then he must know in order to eradicate them, what remedy will cause tubercles in the lungs that shall exist without accompanying symptoms.

Tubercles are supposed often to exist in individuals who have never experienced any ill effects therefrom—who have never even suspected their presence. The latent miasm which has given rise to them, has manifested itself in producing other deranged conditions—in causing remote disturbances. They, however, are liable on the application of their appropriate stimulus—some exciting cause, to be roused into action, and assume a condition of inflammation and ulceration. It is now that symptoms are induced, corresponding to, growing out of, the disease. The disease shows itself,—its effects become manifest, and serve to point to the remedy. If treatment be attempted prior to this action, and the tubercles become eradicated, it is because the cause of the disease has shown itself by other conditions and symptoms, which have led to the administration of the proper remedies; or in case these latter did not exist, and only the *physical signs* (auscultation and percussion) indicated their existence, it has been by the use of remedies known to produce such symptoms as are concomitant with those of the disease, in

a state of development. The administration of the appropriate remedies, however, under such circumstances, would be almost sure to induce a manifestation of the disease by certain characteristic symptoms, which would enable the physician to prosecute successfully his treatment. So that it is his knowledge of the *effects* of drugs as well as of disease, that enables the physician to make a scientific and successful application of his remedies.

He may know that certain morbid symptoms are indicative of a peculiar alteration of structure, or he may detect diseased structure without regard to the symptoms—he might pride himself upon his knowledge and gratify his curiosity, scientific and praiseworthy though it be; but to know how to cure, he must carefully observe all the disturbing effects of disease, and note well their correspondence to some remedial agent.

The views taken by Hahnemann of this subject were comprehensive and profound—not likely to be understood nor appreciated by the man who is competent to comprehend disease, only as he can see its *material* effects developed in a change of structure.

(To be continued.)

## HOMŒOPATHY THE ONLY TRUE PRINCIPLE IN THERAPEUTICS.

Having discovered the fact that drugs will cure conditions in the sick similar to such as they will cause in the healthy—such as correspond to their well ascertained pathogenetic effects, it follows that upon no other principle can their curative powers be developed. Other *means* may palliate—drugs may be administered that will so alter the existing condition as to afford relief—never to *cure*. And this relief is afforded at the expense of the patient—he may, and generally does suffer subsequently in some way from the large doses he is compelled to take.

A stupid man may apply means to the poor sufferer from some severe disturbing agent that will produce an alteration in his condition, divert the concentrated vital action, determine it upon other parts, may be for the time ease his sufferings and restore him to apparent safety and comfort.

“The veriest fool in Christendom” may give calomel and salivate his patient; he may give antimony and puke him; *senna and salts* and purge him; but true science demands that he

who has to do with the subtleties and susceptibilities of the human system, shall know the relation which the means he may use shall bear to the state of system for which he would apply them; that he shall "clearly perceive the curative indication in each particular case of disease—when he is acquainted with the *therapeutic effects of medicines* individually—when, guided by evident reasons, he knows how to make such an application of that which is *curative in medicine* to that which is indubitably diseased in the patient (both in regard to the choice of the substance, the precise dose to be administered, and the time of repeating it) that a *cure* may follow; *then only can he accomplish his purpose in a rational manner—then only can he merit the title of a genuine physician, or a man skilled in the art of healing.*"

Homœopathia furnishes the *only* true law in therapeutics: on the principle of similitude the physician feels that he has something firm and solid upon which to rely—conscious of having an unerring rule to guide him, he is sure of doing the best thing for his patient—carefully does he investigate his condition, as carefully does he select a *remedy* therefor, from resources as universal as the kingdom of nature, and upon a law as immutable as the foundations of the earth.

Departing from this law, he is cast at once upon the broad ocean of uncertainty; he knows not what to do, and can do nothing with safety. He forsakes the direct path of science for the Broadway of empiricism and quackery. He may afford temporary relief—he may seem to work a marvellous cure. He does but suppress the indications of a *remedy* it is his duty to administer. He may put off, while he enhances the magnitude of the evil it is his province to eradicate from the system.

It being an established fact, that no cure of a dynamic disease can take place upon any other than the principle of similitude, who would permit the empiric to *suppress* or *palliate* a temporary difficulty, only to return in some more threatening form, or to assume a more formidable character?

Who, predisposed to pulmonary disease, would submit to the violent suppression of a marsh fever, and have the disease, combined with the previous effects of quinine determined with fatal certainty upon his lungs? Who would consent thus to have the original miasm left in the system (which requires only its appropriate antidote—remedy—for its eradication,) to work a more slow derangement,—to combine

with some other miasm already latent in the system, and to give it impetus, or to suffer from the specific effect of quinine to which his system may be susceptible?

Or what intelligent physician would boast that he had, by empirical means succeeded in so altering the action of the system, in a condition of chlorosis, as to *interrupt* for the time, and in that peculiar manner, the manifestation of the *prima causa morbi*, to be subsequently developed in a greater degree, or in confirmed dyspepsia, dropsy or hectic?

"From pure experience and the most careful experiments that have been tried, we learn that the existing morbid symptoms, far from being effaced or destroyed by contrary medicinal symptoms, like those excited by the antipathetic or palliative methods, they on the contrary reappear more intense than ever after having a short space of time undergone apparent amendment."

"There remains therefore, no other method of applying medicines profitably in diseases than the homœopathic, by means of which we select from all others that medicine *whose manner of action upon persons in health is known*, and which has the power of producing an artificial malady *the nearest in resemblance* to the disease before our eyes."

#### DR. WELLS—No. 4.

MESSRS EDITORS:

In my last I said the truth or falsehood of the power of attenuated drugs to cure disease admitted of proof. I now say *it has been proved*, abundantly proved. The method of this proof has been pointed out, and it is believed there is no other. In this very way, those who truly represent the doctrines of Hahnemann have settled the fact for themselves. In accordance with the directions of the Organon more or less strict, they have gone into the investigation, and the results have convinced their minds, beyond doubt, that these potentized remedies constitute the great means of cure, which more than any others are worthy of our confidence at the bed side of the sick. They have not derived this conviction from the *ipse dixit* of any man; they have *proved* the fact for themselves. All the experiments of even any one individual, of course, cannot be given to the world, their number forbids. But some of these can and here is one. It is from a paper by Dr. Gross, in the Neues Archiv., 1tes band, 3tes hft. to p. 73.



"Herr V. B.—, near 40 years of age, of strongly marked phthisical habit, had frequently suffered from affections of the trachea, fell ill in consequence of severe cold. His physician, [allopath] pronounced the case a tracheal catarrh, and treated him accordingly, till his condition became so much worse that the doctor declared him in rapid consumption, and that he could not live eight days longer. The doctor was dismissed, and Gross called in his stead. The patient lived in an adjoining town, and at so great a distance that he could not be seen daily, and the cure was attempted only on condition that a neighboring allopath, a friend of Gross, should see the patient daily, and report his condition faithfully. The case was undertaken and conducted through the allopath, who declared to the doctor the case had become so bad that treatment was useless. Notwithstanding Gross remarks, "I began with good courage, having confidence in the high potences." He found the following symptoms:

"Tickling in the throat, and incessant cough, mornings and forenoons, with thin, yellow, profuse, tasteless expectoration; the spittoon was more than filled in the course of the day. Talking excited cough at all times. The patient was compelled to sit stooping forward, to breathe with greater freedom. Pulse more than 100 in the minute. Urine dark colored and hot, bowels entirely constipated; appetite null; tongue coated white; copious nocturnal perspirations. The patient had stannum 200. On the fourth day the expectoration had diminished one half, but the perspiration had increased. The feces evacuated by a water enema were slimy, green and offensive. The tickling in the throat was considerable, and the cough exceedingly annoying. China 200. The sixth day the patient coughed less in the morning, the expectoration was still farther diminished, and had become difficult so as at times to produce vomiting of masses of tenacious slime. The tongue had become cleaned, although he had daily paroxysms of ague and fever; in the morning chill; heat through the whole afternoon, and slight sweating at night, all with but little thirst. Calcarea carbonica 200, after which the tickling in the throat increased at night, with cough and copious sweating, but on the following morning there was a slight and last appearance of the fever. Stool healthy, appetite good. Expectoration saltish. All the symptoms evidently improved, till the tenth day, when he had violent pain in a hollow tooth, which seemed too long. He could endure nothing warm in the mouth,

was uncommonly excitable, and I had great reason to dread a relapse of the chest affection, if this pain were not checked. I gave him Chamomilla 200, which was followed by abscess in the gums and loss of the pain. On the thirteenth day I found the cough insignificant, no fever, pulse natural, strength improved, sleep good, tongue still coated, although he had appetite, and constipation. He had Bryonia Alb. 200, after which the tongue became clean and the bowels regular, appetite good. The eighteenth day I saw the patient again when he had recovered, with the exception of a slight loose short cough in the morning, which determined me to give him again Calcarea carb. 400, after which he had no medicine, and all symptoms of his disease disappeared."

This case was examined by two allopaths, and both declared it fatal, and yet five remedies, (including that which cured the pain in the tooth,) given in six doses, cured the case in eighteen days. Now let that man who talks of "want of confidence," or of "improbabilities," or that other man who insinuates "insufficiency in emergencies" look at this case, at its progress through the cure, and then let them point to the means more worthy of confidence, or better adapted to such an emergency. Look at the effects which followed each dose. Can any doubt be thrown over them? Look at the result. Is there any thing equivocal in it? Where were the cough expectoration, dyspnoea, anorexia, and sweating, at the expiration of the eighteen days? Now cases of supposed rapid consumption *may* have recovered when left to themselves, it is admitted, but a case with such symptoms as would lead any intelligent physician to the conclusion that life could not last longer than *eight* days, never yet *perfectly cured itself in eighteen*. Let the man who has studied the effects of drugs, on the healthy body, note how the symptoms in the case, characteristically *like* those of the remedy, disappeared after each dose. The expectoration after the Stannum; the sweating after the China; the fever and morning cough after the Calcarea carb., the gastric symptoms after Bryonia. Let him look at these facts in the light of the great law, "*like cures like*," and let him tell me if he can why these very symptoms, and *no others*, should so vanish after the dose! Let him explain it on any other hypothesis than that of a *cure*, if he can, and he will get credit either for great ingenuity or great folly. Let the man who regards allopathic means as the great engines by which alone the dangers

of extreme cases are to be removed, remember that in the face of all these the patient's march to the grave was direct; and so bad had he become under their administration that, in the judgement of his physician, the life he could not preserve was limited to the brief space of eight days, and yet this disease is removed, and this life saved—by what? By means in which one wants “confidence,” and of which the other, who should know better, insinuates “insufficiency!” To some this may appear a dignified reserve of judgement, or of superior acuteness of discernment, but to my mind it is no less than rank folly. It is not sufficient to say that “one case proves nothing.” There are hundreds of cases like this on record, and there might be thousands, if a tithe of the facts already observed were published, and their number is daily increasing. But it is contended this one case, properly viewed, does *prove much*. It proves as clearly as any one observation of any fact can prove any thing on any subject, that the potentized doses given possessed power to cure, and that this power did cure where allopathic means had failed, and allopathic judgement was without hope. If it be simply intended to say that one case is insufficient of itself to prove the superiority of any one method of treating diseases, to the exclusion of all others there was no necessity for the remark. No one, so far as I know, has entertained a contrary opinion. This cure has been adduced for no such purpose but merely to show that *potentized drugs have power to cure*. We are told continually that they are equivalent to nothing at all, and that the cures alleged to have been effected by them are so many delusions. The case is given to meet this assertion, and prove it false. Alone it is conceived to be adequate to this. But it is by no means alone. It stands in the midst of thousands of similar facts, the number of which every true homœopath has helped, and is helping, to swell, till, it is contended, their number and force are sufficient to prove the superiority of the means employed, to the exclusion of all others. The only explanation of the fact that they have not produced this conviction wherever a knowledge of them has gone, and the only ground of fear that they will not force this conviction wherever a knowledge of them shall come, is found in the declaration with which we started—“*Skepticism is more a matter of feeling than of judgment.*”

## LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

The multifarious chronic affections may owe their existence to a plurality of miasms. In what these essentially consist—what conditions of the earth or atmosphere give rise to them—whether they exist primarily or are dependant upon chemical changes, taking place under peculiar circumstances in some of the elements of nature, may not be known. The period and the conditions in which they invade the system may never be determined.

Of the character and desolating effects of the (supposed) most common miasm we shall proceed to speak.

Hahnemann, after years of patient toil in ascertaining the pathogenetic effects of remedial agents to enable him to apply in all cases the principle of cure which he had discovered; and in the study of the various causes of disease was enabled by comparison to determine that the homœopathic method of cure was vastly superior to the allopathic method “both in regard to acute diseases as well as epidemics and sporadic fevers.” But he found a large class of (chronic) affections that remained uncured by any treatment, and which no care or attention to diet and regimen was adequate to remove.

The remedies he had as yet discovered only served to palliate these difficulties—they returned again after the lapse of some time. He was thus led to suspect the existence of a deeply seated cause, and to the discovery of another class of remedies, which by their specific character had the power permanently to cure these affections and to banish from the system the cause—the miasm which had primarily disturbed it.

“The manner in which those diseases had been treated by allopathic physicians, has only served to increase the sufferings of such patients. By employing a quantity of disgusting mixtures, compounded by the apothecary out of large doses of violent medicinal substances, *whose separate effects were unknown*, or by using all sorts of baths, violent diaphoretics or expectorants, pretended anodynes and sedative, clysters, ointments, fomentations, fumigations, vesicatories, cauteries, fontanelles, and especially those everlasting purgatives, leeches, bloodletting, and methods of starvation and the various other fashionable medicinal torments, the disease was either made worse, and the vital energies, despite of the intermediate use of pretended tonics were more and more dimin-



ished; or if a striking change had been obtained, another nameless *medicinal disease*, being much worse and much more incurable than the original natural disease, was substituted in place of the previous disturbance; whilst the physician consoled the patient by saying that "the old disease had been happily removed; that unfortunately a new disease had made its appearance, but he was confident he would conduct this new disease as successfully as the former." And in this way nothing was done except to *modify the forms of the same disease*, to increase it by the additional sufferings consequent upon the use of improper and obnoxious medicines, until the complaints of the poor patient ceased with his last breath, and the relatives were consoled by the delusive excuse "that every known remedy had been employed in the case of the deceased." After investigating with the greatest care, for a number of years the curative effects of these new remedies he became more fully satisfied that these chronic affections had their origin in the existence of a latent miasm.."

"The thousand tedious ailments which we have enumerated in our pathological works under distinct names, originated with a few exceptions in this widely ramified miasm."

"Such diseases are most of those eruptions upon the skin which have been distinguished with so much care, and repeatedly denominated by Willan; almost all adventitious formations, from the common even up to the largest sarcomatous tumours, from the deformities of the finger-nails up to ramollisement (softening) of the bones and curvatures of the spine and several other diseases of this kind, in early as well as the more advanced age, frequent epistaxis, hemorrhoids, hemoptysis, hematemesis, amenorrhœa; night sweats and diarrhœa of several years standing; constipation and difficult evacuation of the bowels; long continued local pains; chronic ulcers and inflammations; diseases of both the mind and the soul from imbecility up to extacy, from melancholy up to frenzy; swoons, vertigo, the so-called diseases of the heart; abdominal complaints, and the different forms of hysteria and hypochondria, &c.

"Careful observations, comparisons and experiments in latter years have revealed to me the fact, that the tedious ailments of the body and the soul, which differ so much from each other in their principal symptoms, as well as in the different patients, are all of them nothing but partial manipulations of one primitive miasm,

in which they all originate, and whose innumerable symptoms form but one integral disease, and ought therefore to be regarded and treated as parts of one and the same disturbance."

"All these chronic diseases of mankind unless thoroughly cured by art, continue to increase in intensity until the moment of death. They never disappear of themselves, nor can they be diminished, much less conquered or extinguished, by the most vigorous constitution, or the most regular mode of life and strict diet.

### DISEASES OF CHILDREN DENTITION.

The period of teething with children, is marked by numerous and characteristic derangements of the vital action—not that the process of dentition is an abnormal one, or has in itself a tendency to engender disease, but under peculiar circumstances it become an *exciting cause*. If from the influence of impure air, bad diet, insufficient clothing, exciting passions, or the existence of constitutional virus in the system, a *predisposition* to derangement and disease shall exist, the efforts of nature to develop the teeth of infants may, and in most cases, do serve to arouse it, and give rise to morbid actions; and hence the various difficulties incident to children at this period.

The more common and deeply seated cause of these difficulties, is the *existence of constitutional taint*, of which we have had much to say in preceding numbers of the Journal.

That the other causes enumerated may, and often do, give rise to many serious disorders, cannot be denied; yet we are well aware that many children, inheriting healthy and robust constitutions, pass through this period under the most trying circumstances; being poorly nourished, half clad, and subjected to innumerable exposures and changes of weather and of climate, and never suffer the slightest derangement. Whereas, on the other hand, we know that the majority of them, no matter how favorable may be the circumstances which surround them—how exact the care—how unexceptionable the diet—how appropriate their clothing, and with how much attention they may be guarded against the changes of the atmosphere, yet suffer from a great variety of derangements. Hence the almost innumerable differences of opinion and irreconcilable modes of treatment, which have been advanced and insisted upon by medical and physiological wri-

ters on the management of children. These have not been sufficiently based upon, and influenced by a proper knowledge and appreciation of the more latent and predisposing cause of these disorders.

There are those who think and write that a judicious and *natural* mode of treating children—the proper regulation of their diet, bathing, clothing, exposure to the open air, etc., is all that is necessary to secure to children an exemption from disease; and that it is owing to ignorance of, and inattention to, these necessary conditions to health that any suffer from disease.

It is true, that a just regard to these natural conditions (laws) of health is of the greatest importance, and cannot, under any circumstances, be too strongly insisted upon, yet in many constitutions, they are not essential to health, for the time being at any rate, while with others, the most scrupulous attention paid to those conditions, is inadequate to protect the system against the invasion of disease, while it may lessen the severity and danger therefrom. At the same time they should be adhered to in every case, as means of ensuring a permanent enjoyment of health, and of keeping up the original soundness and strength of the system.

We shall speak of these more at length.

It is important in determining the proper treatment of the diseases incident to children at this period, to keep in mind the distinction we have made in the *causes*, as in one case, the indication is merely to correct and palliate, while in the other it is not only to afford relief, but to effect a radical cure; i. e. to remove the cause—the original taint or virus from the system.

#### HAHNEMANN ON COFFEE.

In order to live long and in good health, man requires food composed only of nutritious and not of stimulating, medical substances: and drink which is either merely fluid or both fluid and nutritive, but containing no stimulating and medicinal substance, as for example, pure spring water and milk.

Of the condiments which gratify our taste, table salt, sugar, and vinegar alone, in small or at most in moderate quantities, have been found safe and harmless for the human body.

All other condiments which we call spices, and all changes in our drink which give it a spirituous or alcoholic character, approach

more or less to the nature of drugs. The more they resemble drugs, the oftener they are taken into our system, and the larger the quantities of them we use, the more dangerous and hurtful are they to health and longevity.

The most serious circumstance of all is the daily use of extremely powerful and purely medicinal substances as articles of diet.

Wine was the only strictly medicinal beverage used by the ancients, and this too the sages of Greece and Rome never drank without diluting it largely with water.

Modern times have added many more medicinal beverages and substances to our articles of daily use; snuff, smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco, and hemp leaves, opium, mushrooms, brandy, some kinds of stimulating and medicinal beer, tea and coffee.\*

Medicinal agents are substances which do not nourish, but alter the healthy state of the system; and in fact every change from a state of health is a species of unnatural, diseased condition.†

Coffee is a strictly medicinal substance. All medicines in strong doses have a disagreeable effect on the feelings of a healthy person. No one ever failed to be disgusted the first time he smoked tobacco. No healthy individual ever found strong coffee without sugar palatable on the first trial—a hint from nature to flee from the first temptation to overstep the laws of health, and not to trample so thoughtlessly under foot, the warning, life-preserving instinct within us.

If we continue the use of these medicinal articles of diet (where to fashion and example seduce us,) habit gradually weakens the unpleasant impressions which they originally pro-

\* Chocolate, when not mixed with spices, belongs to the class of pure nutriment; but the spiced chocolates are all of dubious character, and many of them are decidedly injurious.

† In the same proportion as the substances called medicines possess the power of producing sickness in the healthy human body, are they able to remove the unnatural and dangerous conditions which are called diseases. The sole object of a medicine should therefore be to remove the unnatural, the diseased conditions, i. e. to change them into health. Applied independently of disease, they are all constantly injurious to the natural and regular course of life, and to the health. Their frequent, their dietetical use, destroys the harmonious symphony of our organs, undermines the health and shortens life. A healing or salutary medicine for a healthy person, is a paradox.



duced on us; they even become agreeable, that is, the disagreeable impressions their use produces at first, do not strike us so forcibly when we continue to employ them, and their imagined agreeable effects on our organs of sense gradually become necessary to us. We generally look upon even fancied wants as happiness, and gradually annex the idea of an agreeable relish to their gratification.

Perhaps, too, our instinct seeks from time to time to alleviate our bodily infirmities by the continued use of these medicinal articles of diet, by which to a certain extent they are caused, that is by the palliative aid which they yield us against the ills which they themselves produce.

The observed fact, that all medicines produce two exactly opposite effects in the system, tends to make this system intelligible. Their primary operation is the precise contrary of their subsequent one, that is, of the condition which they leave behind them in the system.\*

Most medical agents produce a disturbance in the healthy system, unpleasant feelings and pains both in their primary and secondary operation, but varying and opposite in each, and even their continual use produces no pleasant sensations in healthy individuals.

The few medicinal substances alone which the refined luxurious world has selected as articles of diet, are a sort of exception to the above, at least in their primary operation.† They have when regularly used in moderation, the singular property of producing in their primary operations a kind of artificial elevation of the usual healthy state, an artificially-excited life, and sensations almost wholly of pleasure, while the unpleasant symptoms which their subsequent operation is calculated to produce, continue for some time to be of slight importance, so long as the individual remains in good health, and adheres in other respects to a salubrious and natural mode of living.

To this narrow class of medicines which have been forced upon our diet belongs COFFEE, with its partly agreeable, partly disagreeable effects, both of which, strange as it may sound, are very little known.

Its irregular use in ordinary life at all times of day, its employment in such different quan-

ties and strength, its diffusion among the most unequal condition of life, its general use by individuals of the most different degrees of bodily constitution and health, renders the task of the observer a confused one, and makes it extremely difficult to abstract its real operation from all these circumstances, and thence to deduce correct results. In the same way, a sign may be written out in the plainest characters and with the most intelligible words, yet all is confusion when it is turned swiftly round; all the letters run into each other, even before the keenest eyes.

Accurate, continued, prudent observation as free as possible from deception, and careful reference of the symptoms to their cause, can alone afford information as to that most important of all drinks—coffee.

Its first effect is in general a more or less agreeable increase of the vital activity. The animal, the natural, and the vital functions, as they are called, are for some hours at first artificially elevated by it, and the subsequent effect which arises after the lapse of several hours is its opposite—an unpleasant feeling of existence, a lower degree of vitality, a kind of paralysis of the animal, natural, and vital functions.\*

When a person unaccustomed to coffee, drinks a moderate quantity of it, or one accustomed to it an immoderate quantity,† his individuality, the sensation of his existence, of his vitality, is for the several next succeeding hours, more lively. His pulse beats fuller, quicker, but softer. He acquires a well-defined glow in the cheek, a glow which does not disappear insensibly in the adjacent parts, but stands out separate like a spot of red. The forehead and the palm of the hand become

\* "When I awake," wrote a respectable devotee, "I have the intelligence and activity of an oyster."

† The expressions *moderate* and *immoderate* must be understood solely in a relative and individual sense; they cannot be used with reference to any universal measure, or even for any number of persons. Thus, a prince bred in luxury, and recently deceased (H. C. von C.) required the infusion of seven ounces of burnt coffee beans; whilst we find persons who are very strongly effected by no more than a fourth of an ounce. One can bear more than another.

Neither do all the agreeable primary symptoms of the coffee, I have here cited, appear in every person who uses it, at least not at one time;—some coffee drinkers have only a few of them, others a few more; but only a very few experience the whole.

\* E. g, to-day jalap purges, and to-morrow and the next day, costiveness follows.

† As before cited: wine, brandy, opium, coffee, tobacco, &c.

moist and warm. He feels warmer than before; he feels an agreeably oppressive warmth, a sort of voluptuous palpitation of the heart ensues, as when great joy is felt. The veins of the hands are distended. Externally, too, a greater than the natural warmth is produced which, however, a larger quantity of coffee, never changes to heat (rather to general perspiration;) none never acquire a burning heat by its use.

His presence of mind, his faculty of attention and sympathy are more lively than in the healthy natural condition. All external objects wear a sort of pleasing coloring or varnish of joy, if I may be allowed the expression, and if the quantity was uncommonly large, an almost painful brilliancy. For the first few hours, satisfaction with himself and with all external objects is radiant in the coffee drinker, and this especially was what promoted coffee to the rank of a social beverage. All agreeable sensations which are communicated are speedily exalted to enthusiasm (this for a short time only.) All unwelcome recollections and unpleasant natural sensations are hushed in this magic fever.

(To be Continued.)

### CORRESPONDENCE WITH DR. FORBES.

We have not room for scarcely a remark on the following letter; in truth, it is not necessary for us to say any thing;—it speaks for itself;—and every intelligent physician who reads it, cannot but feel its force.

“—(Germany,) April 15th, 1846.

“I beg that you will allow me to thank you for the article on Homœopathy and Allopathy, contained in the January No. of your Review. It must be hailed with the greatest satisfaction by all the members of our profession who have its welfare truly at heart, and have searched for the solution of the contradictions and riddles presented by all the orthodox works on the different branches of our science, either when studied in books only, or when compared with the statements of unorthodox schools or the results of practice. Your article must necessarily produce not only a great sensation, ‘but it will lead to the most positive and beneficial results,’ since it contains the enunciation of a principle which has before been hinted at by others, and which many, and myself among the rest, have had an ‘Ahnung’ of, (to use a favorite German term,) but which none have dared to give clear and decided utterance to. The article in question made upon me the impression of an outburst of matured thought and long-suppressed

conviction, which has broken forth with all the vehemence of an explosion, but it is not the explosion of gunpowder, but the powerful ejection of the first steam from the boiler, which at once proves the strength and workmanship of the engine, and gives promise of a long and useful career. The works of Dr. Combe, to which I with so many others owe much—I might almost say, the entire direction of my professional creed and practice in the path of hygiene—have prepared the way and rendered the adoption of your views a less difficult matter than it might have been, had they been published ten years earlier; and though I am convinced that you yourself would soften some of the expressions used in the above-named article, and remove stumbling-blocks which may offend tender consciences, the profession are indebted to you for the clearness and precision and courage with which you have pointed out what ought to be our aim, what must be the guiding principle in all our labors, if we are to be useful to humanity and satisfied with ourselves. . .

“I have learnt to look upon the prevention of disease—upon hygiene in its most extended meaning—as the true aim of the medical man. I have seen enough both in hospital and private practice to feel disgusted—I may admit as much to you—at the authorized quackery even of intelligent and highly educated medical men. I have felt the opprobrium severely, which must be the lot of the profession so long as they shut their eyes to the true working of natural laws, and as long as they wilfully refuse to admit inferences, which though necessarily the permanent basis of the “curative” art, clash with received notions and traditionary prejudices. Truly has it been said that the real object of our science is less the healing of disease than the correct guidance of those that are healthy, and the interpretation of those laws by which healing *κατ' ἐξοχήν* is rendered unnecessary. What more melancholy fact can be presented to the mere prescriber when he first enters upon the duties of his benevolent profession, with the enthusiasm of unsoured philanthropy, than the continual assurance of the Nestors of the profession that the greater our experience the more positive the conviction that we can *do nothing*? and it only proves the immense force of habit that, with such convictions, we do not more frequently see men quit a profession which, under such circumstances, requires a constant exercise of hypocrisy and a sacrifice of principle. But Sir, thanks to you, and to men like Combe, Chadwick, Clark, the young generation see the radiancy of a new light, that warms the heart while it illumines the intellect; and though their path still continues beset with dangers, they feel a firm footing, and the slough of despond is passed.

“One more remark on your essay, and I have done. The profession are deeply indebted to you, not only for your advocacy of the physiological school, but also for the conservative manner in which you have given vent to your ideas. I do not hesitate to say that there has been intellect enough among the members of the medical profession to have given birth to simi-



lar views at an earlier age; but the authors of new theories have invariably felt too much vanity, and consulted their passing fame too much, and have raised party feeling, and the baneful effects of party spirit. What is there in a name? We might almost say everything; and thus it has been that Galenism, Brownism, and all the other isms that have proved an ignis fatuus to many, have at least retarded the due developement and progress of medical science, more from the factious opposition or factious adherence to the principles individualized by the name, than by any inherent faults of the systems.

"I beg to apologize again for intruding myself upon your notice, but it is to me almost an act of devotion to express my opinion and my gratitude to one who has conferred a most signal benefit upon the whole profession, and more especially upon its junior members. Whether or not I shall ever have an opportunity to avow my adhesion to 'the natural system' publicly, will depend upon a variety of circumstances. If you meet me in the field of literature, I trust that you may not have reason to refuse me recognition as one of your earliest disciples; at all events, I shall endeavour to follow out those principles which I feel convinced afford the only true standard and rule to guide our actions by. They are the moving power in my private practice, and I am guided essentially by them in my labors in the hospital.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I. New York, Saturday, December 5, 1846. NO. 16.

DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DEC. 5, 1846.

## AGENTS.

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## FALSE ISSUES.

The writer of an article in the "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal" of Nov. 18, 1846, headed "*Homœopathy in Europe*," attempts to make a false issue among the members of the school of homœopathy. There has

never been in this country any controversy on low and high potencies or attenuations of medicines; and we do not believe there ever will be. The real issue is this—that some, professing to be homœopaths, from ignorance, indolence or hypocrisy, employ venesection, blisters, cathartics, emetics or revulsive and antiphatic measures in the treatment of disease, to the great scandal of Homœopathy. The pure homœopathists or disciples of Hahnemann reject such means, and denounce as mongrels all who employ them. We have stated again and again, that if the doctrine of the dynamization of medicines be acknowledged, he who sees fit to use the 1st or 3d attenuations in diseases may be as sound a homœopathist—so far as principles are concerned, as he who uses exclusively the 30th or the higher; from necessity, this must be left to the judgment of the physician. While we are on this subject, we may as well correct an error into which some have fallen, with regard to the practice of Hahnemann, at the period when he established the truth of the law "like cures like." It is said, he used the mother tinctures,—this is true. But how did he use them? and why did he give them up? We have it from one of his own students, and afterwards for ten years his assistant, that the dose consisted of what was upon the end of the cork of the phial which contained the medicine, and with this, a little sugar was moistened. And he seldom if ever repeated the dose. He tells us in the Organon, he found these doses acting (when homœopathic to the case) too violently, and in his attempts to avoid this evil, he discovered the method of attenuating the crude drug, by trituration and succession. It is to our mind, remarkable, that any one should attempt to found an argument for the exclusive use of the crude drugs, from any thing Hahnemann has said or practiced. The real issue therefore, is, homœopathy *versus* allopathy;



and to this we shall employ our humble efforts to hold our pretended friends and open enemies. It is a fact, that allopathy is being merged into *eclecticism*, and since the successful promulgation of the doctrines of Hahnemann—she assumes all colors and shapes, and requires attention, close observation, much reading, and a strict adherence to established principles to be able to distinguish the alloy of allopathy, which is sometimes mixed with the pure gold of homœopathy.

The article in the Boston Journal referred to above, is a miserable newspaper puff, fabricated for this purpose as we shall soon show. The object is, among other things, to explode the doctrine of high potencies, and to do which, poor folks are invited to attend one hour in a week to be experimented upon, to show the impracticability of high potencies. The same thing was done at Leipsic in Germany, except the poor were received one hour daily in order to obtain as hastily as possible a number of cases treated by tinctures, to report at the meeting of the 10th of August last. The article from the "New York Schnell Post," is a falsified translation. The author of that article written in German, is in favor of high potencies, and shows the absurdity of the way of controversy, by Drs. Hartmann and C. Müller as it has been done at Leipsic.

The remark in the introduction to this falsified translation, with regard to the doings of the American Institute of Homœopathy, at its meeting in Phila., "where" it is said "the doctrine of high potencies was extensively discussed and almost unanimously adopted as the only true method of treating disease" is a complete falsehood, and could have only originated with a man who was not present, or probaby *not allowed* to be present. The further remark "in what estimation these opinions are held by some of the most eminent physicians of Germany," proves the complete ignorance of the writer. There was not a single eminent physician of Germany at the meeting at Leipsic, the less of the "most eminent," the meeting was poorly attended and a mere formal affair.

We do not ask the editor of the Boston Journal to insert the whole of this article, but we do ask him, as an act of justice, that he will give to his readers such portions of it as will correct the imposition practiced upon him by, we do not know who.

## DIFFICULTY OF INTRODUCING NEW SYSTEMS OR SCIENCES.

Although this subject be admitted without any opposition on our part from our knowledge of the world, and of the structure of our own minds; nevertheless it may be profitable to inquire why this difficulty exists; that we may be protected against credulity on the one hand, and at the same time unwilling to yield our credence to every pretension suggested by the vagaries of an unbalanced mind, or the design of some aspirant who to gratify the desire of distinction, wantonly originates that in which he does not himself believe. This difficulty as a matter of course, does not exist to the same extent in every case—many times by a connection of circumstances, the public mind may be prepared for a new science, which has an affinity to others already defined and embraced; or where those already received serve to demonstrate those which are proposed, as geometry and astronomy.

In the discussion of this article, we refer to sciences which have no defined or heretofore understood principles, by which they are preceded or sustained.

The project of Columbus to discover a new continent was a *new* idea. It had to combat a thousand prejudices, notwithstanding all the arguments he alleged in favor of its plausibility. It was not until worn down with disappointment, that he was favored with an opportunity of testing the system he had embraced. It was the same with the introduction of *steam* as a *power*. Every one is aware of the almost invincible difficulties with which its originator was called to contend. The history of every *new* system or science with which man has been favored, and which in its development, has assisted to promote happiness and inspire the gratitude of an admiring world illustrates our proposition.

The *developements* of a science are necessary to obtain the consent of those who resist conviction upon the theoretic demonstration of its principles.

When a new world had been discovered, wreaths too beautiful could not be woven to decorate the brow of him who but just before had been assailed as an adventurer and madman. Kings and courts vied in their efforts to do homage to his talents. Now also we consecrate the memory of Fulton, who once sustained the aspersions of the ignorant, and stood the laughing stock of the rabble.

Fondness for novelty which is charged not only upon the present age, but which has always more or less distinguished our race, will oppose no solid objections to the principles we advance. This does not so much apply to matters of a profound and serious nature, as to things superficial and temporary. We have heard (for instance,) an almost universal objection in our own day urged against both the sciences of phrenology, and animal magnetism, until their *developements* changed the scorn of contempt into the smile of approbation. We do not profess to understand all the pretensions of these sciences but so far as they have been developed, we cannot resist their claims. Those who have made them matters of special investigation, and who profess themselves able to decide upon their merits, who have searched into their principles, and witnessed their developements, no matter how firm the resistance they at first opposed to their advancement, it has now given way to demonstration, and is cheerfully withdrawn, and they have become the disciples and partizans and advocates of systems which they once rejected and despised. And in our opinion the great science of Homœopathy is destined to the same triumph. When those who now oppose its claims, shall have made them matters of calm and faithful investigation, we fully believe their enthusiasm will equal our own in its favor. With us it will be to them a matter of wonder that the world has so long remained ignorant of principles professing so much simplicity and worth. We are aware of the difficulty of arresting the attention of men to that against which they are honestly prejudiced, and, which they hold in doubt and disrepute: yet this is our object. With this object in view it is our design, to explain the difficulties attending the introduction of a new system. We hope to seduce some who now oppose it into the study of our system, and if we can but accomplish this, we are fully prepared to abide the result.

In our opinion, it will be as much a matter of wonder a hundred years hence, that allopathy so long received the sanction of the world, as it now is to those who have tested the principles of homœopathy, that the art of medicine is yet so little known, when many other arts of less importance to the welfare of the human family are cultivated to an extent, to secure the homage of succeeding ages.

(To be Continued.)

## DR. WELLS—No. 5.

MESSRS EDITORS:

One word more of the case by Dr. Gross, and we shall have made all the use of it we intend. "It occurred in Germany." What then? and I fancy, Messrs. Editors, I hear you echo, *what then?* Why, this important fact has been observed of late, and somewhat extensively detailed in the community, that "it requires more medicine to cure disease in the United States than in Germany." Indeed! And who is the happy man who made the great discovery? Sirs, he is reputed to be a homœopathic physician, and yet he has failed utterly to master this first of the elementary truths of homœopathic science, that the *quantity* of the drug given has little or nothing to do with the cure! He does not seem to have learned yet, that its curative power is in its *relation of specific* to the morbid condition to be removed, rather than in the *quantity swallowed*. He does not seem yet to have half cast the slough which the old school threw over him. The *power to cure* in the ratio of the *quantity swallowed*! How wonderfully the world must have been cured the last thousand years! And he a homœopath! Out upon it!

I should not have alluded to this arrant nonsense, if it were not constantly meeting me in practice, and plead as justification of all sorts of abominations in the matter of doses, by those who have learned it from what they regard as high authority. The statement is not only false, but full of mischief, inasmuch as it seems to give coloring of reason, if received, for violating the best established principles in our science, and it is daily urged as sufficient excuse for just such violations. Sirs, the experience of Hahnemann and his associates is known. The success they met in healing the sick formed a new era in the history of medicine. Remember the typhus which followed the retreat from Moscow! Remember the Asiatic cholera! Remember the multitudes cured of chronic diseases, the records of which cures are spread over the pages of our European literature; and then remember, if your own knowledge of the *Materia Medica* is not sufficiently extensive and critical to enable you to imitate such success, if you are obliged to have recourse to all sorts of expedients to get along with your cases, remember theirs were in Europe and yours in America, and if you cannot thus succeed in quieting your conscience, you may satisfy your friends; and while you are in



the way of remembering, never forget that their enviable success was not so much because their cases required small quantities of drugs, as because they understood the right application of them. One case of cure has been adduced, in which success followed the use of the drug attenuated even to the 1500th degree, where drugs in mass and in lower potences had utterly failed. This was not in Germany. If farther proof of the utter falsehood and absurdity of this notion were wanted, the cases recently reported by Dr. Lippe are in point, and to these can be added hundreds and thousands from the experience of other practitioners, which show as plain as light, that *just in proportion* as American homœopaths imitate their German exemplars in critical, careful, detailed examination and record of symptoms, intimate knowledge of the *Materia Medica*, and care in the selection of their remedies, *just in that proportion* they imitate their *success*, and not by increasing the quantity of drugs given. If any man has not this habit, and this ability to examine disease, and this knowledge of the effects of drugs, he will find an increase of dose a poor substitute for it. Let such an one remember the great injunction of Hahnemann, "*Do as I have done!*" Sirs, to his followers this should have the force of imperative law. Let no man imagine he will ever see Hahnemannian results in his practice who violates this law. If he cannot investigate disease like Hahnemann or Gross, to-day, and, if he be a beginner, it is understood to be impossible, let him learn *how they have done* in this matter, and strive daily to imitate them to the utmost, and *never cease striving*; and if he fails of their perfection, he will each day draw nearer to it; and if he wants a large share of their intimate knowledge of drugs, let him toil day and night, as they toiled, to add to that which he does know, and thus, and thus only can he approximate the point where his success in curing the sick shall resemble theirs. Instead of this, let him resolve to overcome the difficulties he meets by increase of the quantity of drugs he will administer, and that day paralysis comes over his progress in the art of healing deep as death. He can never advance a step by substituting drugs for knowledge and practical obedience to law. It is a virtual resolve to cease all *efforts* to know more. A fool can *increase the quantity* of the dose of a remedy, where it may require a wise man to *select the right one*, and on this hinges all success.

"*Do as I have done.*" What does it mean? Not to develop and bring into practical existence a new law of healing, not to lay the foundation and rear the superstructure of a new *Materia Medica*—not to discover new laws and forms of remedies—and yet all these did Hahnemann. But it means, having the law of cure placed in your hands, and by its side the pure *Materia Medica*, that you employ the remedies of which it treats not only in accordance with the law of cure, but also in accordance with those other, no less important, laws, which govern the preparation, form, and manner of administering the remedies. I say, in these matters, the follower of Hahnemann, the man who is called by his name, is bound by the force of law.

If there be a man who has discovered a better method with medicine and the sick than Hahnemann's, let him proclaim it to the world with the same freeness and boldness that characterized the first promulgation of homœopathia, let him raise his own flag, and be called by his own name, and he shall have the honor which is his due; but let him insist on the name of a follower of Hahnemann while he pursues the figments of his own fancy and refuses to obey the master's injunction, and he will soon gain the honor due the hypocrite.

If the man can be found who has followed this precept, done as the master did, and has failed in obtaining the results he promised, let him come forward like a man, with the transaction in all its parts, in terms which can be understood by all the intelligent adherents of Hahnemann, let him thus publish it to the world, and, if there be no mistake of his own, he can thus convict the sage of error or falsehood in a manner the whole world can understand. This is what has been constantly demanded from the beginning, and is demanded still. Neither the author of homœopathia nor any one of his true adherents have ever feared this trial. They have ever insisted, and still do, that it is the only way in which the subject can be properly met. They have contended that to oppose the positive experience of competent men, confirmed by years of toil and patient observation, with mere prejudice, assertion, or *a priori* opinion, is both unmanly and unwise. Homœopaths are willing to be convicted of error, or of graver sins, by the results of faithful experiment, if any man is able to convict them. But let him who makes the attempt regard this neglected precept—"Do as I have done." They are willing to be tried by

no other law. If by this they fall, they have no complaints to utter. In the mean time, it is worthy of remembrance that no man has yet entered thus on the trial of the doctrines of Hahnemann without ultimate conviction of their fast foundation in nature and truth. Do as the master has done, and if, in so doing, it be proved that diseases in America require a larger quantity of drugs for their cure than diseases in Germany, let it be known; but if the contrary be found true, let facts correct the assertion.

### THE NATURE OF SYMPTOMS.

A year ago we had under our care a gentleman who had rapidly run down with consumption, and had resorted to various expedients in the hope of cure. He was at this time confined to his bed or to his room, and had given up all hopes of recovery.

His breathing was short and labored; cough violent; expectoration profuse and fetid—occasionally bloody; profuse sweatings; pulse varying from 110 to 120; loss of appetite and great emaciation and debility; extensive ulceration of the left lung. This is a very brief description of only the more prominent symptoms of this case; enough however for our present purpose.

We were ignorant of a remedy which was known to produce a condition similar to that of our patient's lung; we took as our guide the symptoms present to our observation;—the cough, the expectoration, &c. &c., selected and administered our remedies with no expectation that they could avail, except to mitigate his sufferings; but by a steady persevering course, and strict adherence to the only rule we had, to our great surprise and gratification we found the symptoms gradually abating, and the patient in a corresponding degree recovering his appetite, strength and flesh. This improvement continued, and he has at this day the appearance of a man in robust health.

Had we known and relied upon a remedy that might have been known to produce a similarly diseased condition of the lungs as was evident existed in this case, irrespective of the other symptoms, we have no evidence that they would have at all benefitted the patient; while we have in our own experience, and in that of all homœopaths, abundant reason to convince us of the safety and success of a treatment of the sick which depends upon the selection of

remedies indicated by all the symptoms present in a case; and we remember to have been especially guided in this respect, in the above case, by the *moral state* of the patient. No one symptom—no group of symptoms—nor the change of structure of the organ diseased, served separately to represent the *cause* of the derangement, which doubtless, was alone subject to the remedial influence of the medicine used. To have combatted its effects, or to have prescribed separately and distinctly in reference to these, no matter how well ascertained, would, so far as we have any rule to guide us, have been as futile as the departure from the simple and true principle for the application of curative agents would have been unnecessary and unjustifiable.

By a strict adherence to the law which requires the existence of corresponding symptoms of disease to those characteristic of the action of remedial agents, the homœopathist daily witnesses the curative effects of medicines in disorders in which, as yet, abnormal symptoms alone are present, and often where these are to a greater or less extent dependant upon actual change of structure.

Another instance to assist in the confirmation of this doctrine, we think worthy of notice. Lately we had occasion to treat a well-marked case of *Tabes mesenterica* (scrofulus enlargement of the mesenteric glands) with fever and excessive emaciation. The disease was not only pronounced to be this by an intelligent physician of the old school of long practice in the city, but an unfavorable prognosis given. We cured the patient, (a child,) by homœopathic means and by the higher potencies. We hardly gave a dose lower than the 30th att. and often much higher. Notwithstanding the nature of the disease and the condition of the patient were evident enough, yet we were governed in the selection of the remedies by the abnormal symptoms present at different periods.

We regarded the entire state and sufferings of the patient, carefully noting all the disturbances which presented themselves to our observation, and selecting remedies whose known action upon the human system corresponded to these symptoms, we found they yielded to their influence, and the patient recovered apparent health. We do not know that the remedies which seemed to do him the most good, are known to produce that peculiar condition of the mesenteric glands, known to exist in this disease. To have cured this patient without



regard to symptoms, we should have known what remedies would produce that condition of the glands; but this it is evident we could not have known, and even were it possible, we doubt if it would have been attended by success; for the principle of the curative power of remedial agents is based upon the abnormal symptoms that any disturbing agent may give rise to in the system, or that may be dependant subsequently upon diseased structure; and not upon the similarity of the consecutive and ultimate effects of such disturbance.

### DISEASES OF CHILDREN, DENTITION.

The mortality among children at the period of teething is very great. It has been estimated, that one in every five or six die at this time. It being a natural functional process—not in itself a disease—this should not be the case, and the explanation must be sought in causes *far more remote and deeply seated* than in the mere feebleness of the system at this age. It is true that the older writers have imputed these fatal results to predisposition, while they have neglected to account for it, or to explain its nature or its probable origin, and have seemed to rest satisfied in thus generally, and with apparent plausibility accounting for the fact, while it has not led them to apply the remedy—to cure the evil or lessen the formidable consequences of it. The mortality has not decreased with the *advance* of practical medicine and the *multiplied* resources of the art. Can the study of the *appropriate* remedies—the *curative* power of medicines have been properly directed? Has *rational* medicine accomplished all ‘it is capable of,’ or when does it promise or hope to give evidence of its utility and advancement, in saving a greater number of these feeble sufferers than were saved 2000 years ago, or in countries where *the art* is unknown?

If the accumulated experience of ages, and the combined energies of so many minds, moving in the same direction, have been inadequate to produce comparatively favorable results, should not the direction be changed, and *real competency* be sought in *radical reformation*?

The disorders to which children are subjected, being dependant upon some morbid influence predisposing the system to suffer therefrom, it is no less the province of rational medicine

than the duty of the scientific physician to detect and subdue it, often before it shall have developed itself in a serious or fatal disorder. When this predisposition to disease exists, it may, in most cases, be detected prior to the period of dentition. Combated thus early, it is readily, by the *appropriate* means subdued, and often eradicated from the system.

It is often manifested during the earliest periods of infancy in various ways—generally by means of disturbances considered *trifling* and *unworthy* the attention of a physician—sometimes in more serious and alarming difficulties. These trifling disturbances are its first appeals to art, bespeaking its timely and effectual interference. They represent the evil, and indicate the remedy, at a time when its hold upon the system is comparatively slight, and when it is more than ever susceptible to the influence of remedial agents. Too often are these “trifling” disorders neglected by the mother; or more culpably suppressed by the physician, directly or indirectly, by means as pernicious in their influence as they are inadequate to cure.

The “hiccuping” of an infant may be suppressed by a *little sugar*, or it may be controlled by a *remedy*, which, while it affords relief, shall give an effectual blow to the *cause of the disturbance*. The cholera of a little sufferer may be suppressed by an opiate, leaving the cause to break forth in some more violent form, and have *added to it*, the poisonous influence of a pernicious drug, or it may be relieved by a remedy that shall at the same time tend to weaken and annihilate it.

The irritability, restlessness and crying of infants, are evidence of the disturbing influence of some latent miasm. The existence of these difficulties, in perfectly healthy children properly nourished and otherwise cared for, is not to be presumed. This condition in the child, indicates that there is something wrong—there is some constitutional cause for it, which, while it invokes the aid, *demand*s the attention of the physician; and it is to the eradication of this cause that his efforts and skill should be directed. To suppress its manifestations is not only irrational, but leaves it to gather strength and to become developed in some more formidable manner, while the means resorted to for such a purpose, tend only to increase the derangement, and add intensity to the inherent predisposition.

Whatever may be the manner in which this predisposition manifests itself, it is incompara-

bly better than it should be treated rationally and intelligently, and with a view to its radical cure.

To do this, the physician must discover in the abnormal symptoms presented, the indication for a remedy, rather than by violent means to suppress them for the time. We need hardly reprobate the use of drugs for such purposes, so generally has this been done by the older physicians of the present day.

Where specific and comparatively harmless means are not known, the careful avoidance of exciting causes is advised, and a system of the most natural physical training enjoined. One of the most important indications to be fulfilled, as is generally considered, is to lessen the local irritation caused by the teeth as they approach the surface of the gum. The amount of irritability, in children properly treated, is, we think, in proportion to the inherent predisposition to disease. Operating as an exciting cause, this predisposition becomes developed, and the opportunity should be improved by the administration of remedies calculated to eradicate it, while they afford relief and allay the disturbance.

The *cutting of the gums* merely, it is evident is not adequate to the fulfilment of this double indication, though in the absence of the appropriate means it is advisable and may serve to prevent, for the time, the further development of disease.

#### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

Purposing under the head of *Chronic diseases* and their treatment, at some future period, to speak more fully of the nature of the miasm giving rise to them, we give from Hahnemann's work on this subject, vol. I, of chronic diseases, *some of its effects*, as evidences of its existence: repeating what we have before premised, that the diseases of whose origin we do know, and disturbances growing out of bad habits of living, etc., are insufficient to account for the multitudinous and characteristic difficulties denominated, "*Chronic affections*."

Insatiable hunger and want of appetite, following each other in alternation.

Swelling of the cervical glands, (scrofula.)

Tedious obstruction of the nares, one or both.

Frequent inflammation of the throat, frequent hoarseness.

Either the whole body or only the head,

neck, breast, abdomen, feet, easily catch cold, especially in a draught of air; these parts are then generally covered with sweat; the cold is attended with various symptoms, which often last a good while.

Frequent pain on one side of the head, or toothache, from even moderate mental emotions.

Frequent flushes of heat and redness in the face, sometimes combined with a sort of anxiety.

Frequent falling of the hair, dryness of the hair, scales upon the scalp.

Inclination to erysipelas, on different parts of the body.

Weariness on waking up in the morning; unrefreshing sleep.

Sensation of emptiness in the stomach.

Dryness in the mouth, in the night and early in the morning.

Itching of the anus.

Chilblains; they are painful even in the summer season.

Drawing, straining pains in the back of the neck, in the back, the limbs, especially the teeth, in damp stormy weather, when the wind is from the north-west or north-east, after a cold, a strain consequent on lifting, or after disagreeable emotions, etc.

Uneasy, frightful, or too vivid dreams.

Unhealthy skin; every little wound ulcerates; the skin of the hands and lower lips become easily chopped.

Frequent boils, frequent paronychias.

Itching of the skin—especially at night and in cold weather.

Vertigo; the patient reels in walking.

Vertigo, on closing the eyes, every thing around him seems to turn; he is then attacked with nausea.

Vertigo, attacking him with a jerk in the head; he loses his senses for a moment.

Vertigo, resembling a swoon.

Vertigo, causing a loss of consciousness.

Numbness and giddiness of the head; the patient can neither think, nor accomplish any mental labor.

Dull headache in the morning, on waking up, or in the afternoon, either on walking fast or speaking loud.

Headache on one side, at certain periods, (after twenty-eight, fourteen, or a less number of days;) more frequently about the period when there is either full or new moon; or after vivid emotions colds, etc., pressure or



other pain on the top of the head or in the head or a boring pain above one eye.

Headache daily at certain hours; for example, shooting pain in the temples.

Headache as if the skull would tear open.

Drawing pain in the head.

Inflammation of the eyes, of various kinds.

Yellowness of the white of the eyes.

False sight. He sees objects double or multiplied, or he sees only one half of an object.

Objects are seen as if through a gauze or cloud, the sight is dim at certain periods.

Running from the ear, of a thin, usually fetid pus.

Bleeding from the nose more or less abundantly and frequently.

Nostrils as if stopped up.\*

Smell either weak or lost.

Perversion of smell.

Fetid smell in the nose.

Swelling and redness of the nose, or of the tip of the nose, either frequently or permanently.

Cutaneous eruptions, where the skin is covered with the beard, or at the roots of the beard-hair, with itching.

Innumerable kinds of eruption on the face.†

Gums bleeding on the slightest touch.

Gums whitish, swollen, painful to the touch.

Gums disappear leaving the front teeth bare, even their roots.

Grating of the teeth during sleep.

Looseness or decay of the teeth, of various kinds, even without toothache.

Toothache of countless kinds, from many sorts of exciting causes.

Painful pustules and sore places on the tongue.

Feeling of dryness on the whole inside of the mouth, or only at some places, or deep in the throat.‡

Bad smell from the mouth.

Frequent internal inflammation of the throat

\* Either one or both of them at once, or alternately the one or the other; often there is only a feeling of being stopped up, though the air passes through with ease.

† Crusta, lactea, dimples, herpes carcinomatous ulcers on the nose, lips and face, with burning and shooting pain.

‡ Chiefly on waking up in the night or in morning, with or without thirst; a high degree of dryness in the throat is often accompanied with pricking pains in swallowing.

and swelling of the parts which aid in the process of swallowing.

Bitter taste in the mouth, especially in the morning.

Sourish and sour taste in the mouth, especially after a meal, though the food tastes well.

Fetid and putrid taste in the mouth.

Risings from the stomach, empty, loud risings of air merely, incontrollable, lasting often for whole hours and frequently in the night.

Sour risings, either fasting or after a meal, especially after having tasted milk.

Heartburn more or less frequent; there is a burning all along the chest, especially after breakfast, or on moving the body.

Nausea, early in the morning.

Nausea, even to vomiting, early in the morning after rising from bed; it is lessened by motion.

Nausea, always after having eaten greasy things or milk.

Hiccough after eating or drinking.

Violent craving for food, (rabid hunger) especially in the morning; he is obliged to eat immediately, otherwise he feels sick and trembling, (and when in the open air, he is often obliged to stretch himself suddenly on the ground.)

Appetite without hunger; a desire arises to swallow suddenly all sorts of things, without the stomach craving them.

A kind of hunger; but by eating even ever so little, at once satisfied and feels full.

Thirst; constant thirst, or only in the morning on rising.

In the pit of the stomach there is a sensation of swelling, painful to the touch.

Feeling of cold in the pit of the stomach.

Oppression at the stomach, or in the pit of the stomach, as if there were a stone like a cramp.

Beatings and pulsations in the stomach, even fasting.

Pain at the stomach; the stomach feels sore, even on eating the most harmless food.

After a meal, a feeling of anxiety accompanied with sweat, such as is consequent upon anxiety.

After a meal, oppression and burning at the stomach, or in the epigastrium, almost like heartburn.

After a meal, a burning sensation in the œsophagus, from below upwards.

After a meal, distention of the abdomen.

After a meal, weary and sleepy.

After a meal, headache.

After a meal, beating of the heart.

Eating alleviates several, even remote complaints.

Cutting pains in the abdomen almost daily, especially in children; more frequently early in the morning than at any other time of the day; in some cases day and night without diarrhœa.

Pain in the liver on touching the right hypogastric region.

Pain in the liver; pressure and tension; tension below the ribs of the right side.

Pain in the liver; stitches, especially on stooping suddenly.

Spasmodic cholice, a cramp in the intestines.

Constipation; the stools often delay for several days, though there is frequently an unsuccessful desire for stool.

Passing of ascarides by the anus.

Diarrhœa, lasting for weeks, months and years.

Diarrhœa frequently returning, lasting for several days and accompanied with cutting pains in the abdomen.

Sensation of crawling and itching in the rectum, with or without the passing of ascarides.

Disorder of the menstrual functions; the menses do not appear regularly on the twenty-eighth day after the appearance of the former, do not appear without being accompanied by other morbid symptoms.

Leucorrhœa, sometimes a few days before, sometimes after the menstrual flux, or during the whole time from one period to another.

During pregnancy there is great lassitude, nausea, frequent vomiting, swoons, painful varices of the veins of the thighs or legs, also sometimes of the labia; hysteric complaints of various kinds, etc.

(To be Continued.)

## HOMŒOPATHY IN WASHINGTON.

MESSRS. EDITORS:

I am a subscriber to your valuable journal, and for a year past have employed a homœopathic physician in my family. The treatment has been successfully illustrated in several instances of indisposition amongst the members of my household. I have invariably found, by my own experience, that the cures by Hahnemann's system have been more

speedy, thorough, and agreeable than by the therapeutics of Hippocrates. With my children it has been particularly felicitous, for the palatable mode of administration has obviated many of the most troublesome obstacles in medicinal regimen. I have been induced to address you, specially, in consequence of a striking demonstration in behalf of Homœopathy, in the case of a relation of mine, in this city. The patient is upwards of 50, of a plethoric habit, and subject to attacks of paralysis and apoplexy. He had, in former times, been three or four times copiously bled, blistered, and purged, according to the ancient method; but on a recurrence of his symptoms, about two months ago, voluntarily preferred calling in Dr. Green, of this city, late of Philadelphia, my own family physician. The doctor neither bled, scarified, nor excoriated him, but, with the genial potency of the misapprehended infinitesimal doses, baffled his disease and restored Mr. W. to perfect health. The late invalid now values Homœopathy according to its works.

The new science is becoming daily more popular here. Last winter, many Senators and Representatives tested its superior merits, and there is no more enthusiastic advocate in its behalf than the intelligent and clear-headed Dixon H. Lewis, U. S. Senator from Alabama.

We have two homœopathic physicians, who are enjoying active practice, and their aid has been successfully invoked by many of our most respectable families.

Having received an amateur medical education in one of the old medical schools, I have been able, in some degree, to judge of the rationale of the *Organon*, and I frankly confess, that my own personal observation and experience have convinced myself of its superior merits.

I am, Sirs, with much respect,

Your friend,

S. Y. A. L.

Washington, Nov. 10, 1846.

## POWER OF ATTENUATIONS.

We have been asked why, if the attenuation of drugs increases their power, are the less attenuated, and the tinctures used in the more severe forms of disease, such as bilious and intermitting fevers.

We do not regard the use by some practitioners of large doses, as evidence that attenua-



tion does not increase the *curative* power of drugs. We have abundant and constantly accumulating evidence of the curative power of drugs, in the attenuated form, in the severe attacks of disease. Practitioners of great experience testify to their preference of these preparations, in all or nearly all cases. The very first cure we remember to have made by homœopathic means, was an intermitting fever of some months continuance, which had baffled the skill of more than one physician of the old school, and this we effected with a single dose of an attenuated drug. In billious and other acute attacks, our own experience, has constantly confirmed us in the use of the higher potencies. The curative effects of drugs are not dependent upon the size of the dose, but upon the positive relation they sustain to disease. A large dose may effect a cure, but not by virtue of its quantity; the *tendency* of such doses is to produce a drug disease, or to aggravate that already existing. There are it is true, circumstances connected with the susceptibility of a patient, and the characteristic action of certain drugs that might dictate the use of different degrees of attenuation, but these are so much dependant upon the knowledge and judgment of the Physician, that no rule to govern in all cases can be adopted.

We believe that the attenuation of drugs, fits them to act with more power and promptitude, upon the human organism in disease, because in such form they are more nearly allied to the vital principle and the *causes of disease*;—they are thus made to simulate them in subtlety and spirituality, and this may be essential in securing their curative effects.

To produce an *alteration* in the deranged vital action is one thing;—but to oppose to the *cause* of the derangement an antidote—a remedy, that shall annihilate it, and leave the system free to regain its *condition* of health quite another.

The natural tendency of the vital power is to resist the influence of disturbing causes, and to overcome them when they shall have invaded the system. The administration of the appropriate remedies, in the proper form, by antidoting the cause, enables the system the more readily, or at once, to return to its normal condition, while an inappropriate drug or an improper form of it, may produce an *alteration* in the existing condition, which might enable the system to overcome the disturbed action, or it may not. A large dose of a drug homœopathic, to the case, may act curatively,

while it is liable to aggravate and confuse it by the addition of its own specific effects. Nuxvomica in tincture, we believe, has a tendency to produce rather than to cure constipation of the bowels; while in the 30th att. and higher, when indicated, it acts promptly in overcoming this difficulty; and so of other drugs in other cases. We are satisfied of the truth of the doctrine, that attenuated drugs are more in harmony with the susceptibility of the vital power, greatly increased as it is in disease. Hence their more prompt action, and the greater safety in their use. The means are adapted to the desired effects. The power applied is proportioned to the resistance to be overcome.

In acute disorders, the prompt action of the attenuation is in proportion to the intensity of the deranged vital action; and it is then that the more striking and efficient effects of the carefully and rightly selected medicines are displayed. When the symptoms are marked and even threatening, they will be found to yield to the specific in a highly attenuated form. The drug simulating in its effects, and in its form, the cause of disturbance, is competent to its removal.

The precise degree of the attenuations to be used, is a matter for the judgment of the physician to determine, guided by his own, and the combined experience of the profession, and this knowledge of general principles.

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#### HAHNEMANN ON COFFEE.

In man's healthy natural state, when left to itself, unpleasant must alternate with pleasant sensations; this is the wise provision of our nature. But during the first effect of this medicinal beverage, all is contentment, and even the bodily functions, which in the natural state of health are connected with an unpleasant sensation, approaching to pain, are performed with the greatest facility, and even with a sort of pleasurable feeling.

Every man who does not live wholly in a state of nature has at times, at the moment, or for the first quarter of an hour after he awakes, especially when it takes place sooner than usual an unpleasant sensation of imperfectly aroused consciousness, of heaviness, sloth, and inactivity in his limbs; quick movements are painful, thought is an effort.

But, lo! coffee banishes this unpleasant but natural feeling, this uncomfortableness of body

and mind, almost in an instant, and we rise up at once to new life.

After the close of our day's labor, we must, in the course of nature, become weary; an unpleasant sense of fatigue and exhaustion, in our powers of body and mind, make us ill-humored and fretful, and compels us to surrender ourselves to sleep and necessary rest.

This discontent and indolence, this unpleasant weariness of the mind and body, as natural sleep draws nigh, disappears at once before this medicinal beverage, and a sleeplessness, an artificial liveliness, a wakefulness in defiance of nature, make their appearance.

We require nutriment, in order to live, and nature has compelled us to seek it and replace it when our body has parted with it by means of hunger, a gnawing painful feeling in the stomach, a tormenting desire for food, a peevish, quarrelsome fretfulness, coldness, uneasiness, &c.

Not less painful is the feeling of thirst, and yet not the less is it a wholesome provision of nature. Besides the longing for liquids, which our body requires to replace its losses, we are tormented by a dryness of the throat and mouth, and a dry heat of the whole body which seems to confine the breath, restlessness, &c.

We drink coffee—and, lo! we feel little or nothing of the painful sensations of hunger, or of the anxious longing of thirst. True coffee drinkers, especially those females who are deprived of the advantage of recovering from time to time, from the ill effects of this beverage by exercise in the open air, know little of real hunger and thirst. The body is cheated out of its food and its drink, and the vessels of the skin are forced against nature to imbibe as much moisture from the atmosphere as is required for the absolutely necessary purposes of life. Confirmed coffee drinkers void far more liquid than they drink. The natural demands of nature must be hushed. In this way, thanks to the divine nectar, we gradually approach the state of the blest spirits above us, and commence our spiritualization here below.

The beneficent Preserver of all human beings, caused in the healthy individual unpleasant feelings, on motion, after being satiated with food. These were designed to compel us to a certain quiet of body and mind, in order that the important task of digestion might begin undisturbed. An indolence of body and mind—a feeling of compression in the region

of the stomach, arising on motion, a kind of unpleasant pressure, a fullness and distention of the abdomen, &c., remind us when we attempt to exert our energies immediately after a meal, that rest is necessary. And if we try to exercise our powers of thought, there arises a heaviness of the mental faculties, a dullness of the head, a coldness of the limbs with simultaneous warmth of the face, and the feeling of pressure in the stomach, united with a painful sensation of distention of the abdomen, become still more intolerable; it being a fact that the exercise of our mental powers at the commencement of the process of digestion is still more unnatural and more hurtful than even bodily exertion.

Coffee destroys this heaviness of mind and body, and this oppressed feeling in the abdomen after a meal. Refined revellers drink it immediately after meals, and attain in a great degree this unnatural result. They become gay, and feel as light and lively as though their stomach was but partially, or not at all replenished.

The wise Framer of our nature has also sought to compel us to evacuate the secretions of the body by means of unpleasant sensations. There arises an intolerable desire, combined with a not less unpleasant pressure, by which all the agreeable sensations of life are checked, and as it were swallowed up, till the evacuation takes place. And exertion is by our nature necessarily requisite for the final expulsion of the excrements.

But the refined spirit of the times has cared for this, and has sought to elude this law of nature too. In order artificially to advance and expedite the period of digestion, which in the order of things, lasts for several hours, and to escape the unpleasant, often slowly-arising desire to relieve the bowels, our pleasure-seeking contemporaries, who dread unpleasant sensations like children find a remedy in coffee. The intestines, excited by coffee, (in its first operation) force their contents more speedily towards the anus, even when but half digested, and the reveller imagines he has discovered a most precious digestive. But the fluid nutritive juice of the chyme cannot be properly changed, (digested) in this short time in the stomach, nor sufficiently absorbed by the lacteals in the intestinal canal; hence the mass passes through the unnaturally excited intestines to the surface in a half-liquid state, without having contributed the half of its nutritive substance to the benefit of



the body. An admirable digestive—one which triumphs over nature herself!

(To be continued.)

Our correspondent S. of Cleveland, O. is requested to find notice of his communication in the article on the "Power of Attenuations."

Our surprise alone was equalled by our regrets on finding admitted to the pages of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, unjust personalities—a Journal which we have esteemed as much for its uniform courtesy, as for its acknowledged liberality.

Mr. Radde has received the Oct. number of the *British Journal of Homœopathy*.

It contains among other interesting papers, an account of the proceedings of the first annual assembly of the British Homœopathic Society, held in London on the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th of August last, together with the address of the President, Dr. Quin, on the occasion.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. I.

New York, Saturday, December 26, 1846.

NO. 17.

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DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

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DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

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This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DEC. 26, 1846.

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## REFUTATION OF SOME OF THE OBJECTIONS TO HOMŒOPATHY.

If it were at all doubtful that human nature has remained fundamentally the same through all ages, and that education and civilization are little more than a brittle varnish, liable to

break off at any time when opinions or events stir up the natural disposition of man, his passions, his weakness, his likings and dislikes, the history of Homœopathy would furnish one of the most unequivocal proofs of the truth of that assertion. There are few instances in history in general, and certainly none in that of medical science, wherein the silly and malevolent disposition of human nature has shown itself in more glaring colors, or wherein bad faith, wilful blindness, self-sufficient ignorance and unintelligent zeal have been allowed to be more unblushingly paraded in the open day, than on the subject of Hahnemann's reform of practical medicine. The imperfect acquaintance of the public with the art of healing, at all times more or less mysterious, the vital connection of the latter with health, life and happiness, and the importance and startling character of the discoveries offered by that great man, can alone furnish the key to that extraordinary opposition which the doctrine of Homœopathy has met with every where on its first appearance. Those times, however, are now happily past: Homœopathy has made a calm and steady advance through all opposition in every part of the civilized world; and to compare its present position with what it was twenty, nay, even ten years ago, we are rejoiced, though not surprised, to see that an open and powerful reaction has taken place in public opinion in its favor. The virulent and unscrupulous opposition which had kept the public mind for many years in irresolute suspense has found its own reward; governments, as well as private individuals have seen its utter weakness and futility, and convinced of the manifold advantages which the reformed practice of medicine is calculated to confer upon mankind at large, they have given to homœopathy their open and unreserved support. Many objections which ten years ago still appeared plausible



to those who were imperfectly informed on the subject; have lost their influence, and the contempt and ridicule which were thrown over the doctrines of Hahnemann, now fall back with equal force on their over-zealous originators. It is, at this time, wholly unnecessary to mention objections which, however silly and futile, it would have been requisite to refute twenty or even ten years ago; we shall therefore advert as briefly as possible only to such objections as are still most frequently met with, dismiss with a few words those which are too absurd to deserve much notice, and only dwell more extensively upon a few of a more serious character.

*Homœopathic medicines are powerful poisons and therefore dangerous.*

On the one side our opponents pretend that homœopathic doses cannot have any effect, and on the other, that the practice of the system is fraught with danger arising from the medicines. A strange mode of arguing indeed! However, we may add, that with a few exceptions, homœopathy makes use of exactly the same medicines as the old school, and if they are not dangerous in the large allopathic doses, is it not absurd to pronounce them to be so in the minute homœopathic quantities?

*The cures of Homœopathy are attributable to Nature alone.*

"When cures occurring under homœopathic treatment are too obvious to be denied, they are generally attributed by our opponents to Nature alone, or to any other but the true cause. No disease, assuredly, can be cured without the assistance of nature, and it is by administering medicines which act in conformity with her restorative efforts that homœopathy is so eminently successful; but if nature alone can eradicate such diseases, are removed so constantly under homœopathic treatment, what necessity can there exist at all for medical men, and why do patients in so many instances linger on in hopeless suffering, or why does nature wait until homœopathy is applied to before she commences her curative process? Nature, unassisted, no doubt may and does subdue many complaints of an acute character, but no one will assert that she can, by her unaided powers, eradicate the multifarious chronic diseases, in which homœopathy is so eminently successful. Moreover, if nature alone does effect such cures, how can bleeding, blistering, purging, dosing, and other debilitating measures be justified, or on what

rational principle can the long and frightful catalogue of compound powders, pills and draughts be defended, which are so largely administered by the allopathic school? Surely our opponents must perceive that in attributing so much to nature alone, they are attempting to prove too much."

*The cures of Homœopathy are attributable to the faith and imagination of the patient.*

Nothing can exceed the absolute faith which most patients have in allopathy; and are its beneficial effects proportionate to that amount of faith? On the other hand few patients come to Homœopathy with any degree of faith; on the contrary, they frequently protest with singular candor of their total want of faith, lest their reputation for good sense and strength of mind might suffer from even a tacit admission of such a supposition. In fact, if the advance of Homœopathy was depending upon the faith of the patient, it would in all probability as yet have made very little progress. As to imagination, we dismiss this objection by simply adverting to the remarkable success of homœopathy in the treatment of children and domestic animals. Homœopathy has lately been eminently successful in the treatment of that fearful distemper among cattle which has swept away thousands of valuable animals, and has reduced many an honest and industrious man to beggary, and for which allopathy is avowedly utterly powerless. Where is the faith and imagination of infants and animals? Nothing can exceed the weakness of this objection to homœopathy.

*Homœopathic cures are attributable to severe regimen.*

In most cases of disease, little or no change in the mode of living of the patient is necessary; that in diseases of infants and animals, in the treatment of which homœopathy is so successful, the regimen scarcely ever requires any change whatever; nor can diet perform any part in the cure of patients whose diseases are of so acute and aggravated a form as to preclude them from taking any kind of nourishment; neither can it tend to cure those diseases in which total want of appetite is a prominent symptom. And if homœopathy is enabled to cure so many severe disorders by its simple regimen alone, why does not allopathy adopt the same gentle means? How can then all the violent and complicated measures be justified which it resorts to so unsparingly?—*Concise View, &c.*

## DIFFICULTY OF INTRODUCING NEW SYSTEMS OR SCIENCES.

(Continued.)

It is a truth that no man can cordially *advocate* that which he does not *believe*; nor can a man *believe* that which he does not *understand*, and for which he can assign no reason, nor can a man *understand* that which he has not *investigated*. This is perhaps the first difficulty attending the introduction of a new system.

To investigate any subject, it requires labor and thought which are both repulsive, unless we are actuated by motives of influence sufficient to overcome our repugnance.

Where a new system is introduced, there is always a new and original position assumed, upon which all subsequent reasoning is dependent. If this position is sought to be sustained by reasons not in themselves self-evident, but which require all our faculties to examine, that we may allow them the position which they claim, we are at once summoned to the exercise of mental exertion, greater or less, according to the nature of the subject proposed.

These remarks will be admitted as axioms in morals, and hence the difficulty, of which we speak.

Homœopathy advances a position *new* and *original*. We are required to *investigate* the *principles* of this position, and the *development* of those principles in order to form an opinion of their merits. A man would be senseless who embraced our system short of such convictions as were satisfactory to his own mind. Such a person would not be a *Homœopathist*, but a fool. He could not employ a physician of our school with any confidence, and the same reasoning would apply to allopathy. It is true we cannot expect every one to study science! Multitudes are satisfied with the *developements* of principles as proofs of their correctness; and this is perhaps all we can expect, as it regards the masses of community. If however, men will simply examine this point, we ask no more to secure for our school all its claims and purposes. This, however, must not apply to such as practice medicine. We are open to as much quackery, as has ever disgraced allopathy. Our system can be safe only in the hands of such as understand its *principles*, and honestly seek to demonstrate its truth by their *development*. Where there are many other difficulties discouraging this investigation, it must be admitted that we can-

not expect the confidence of the world at once. The simple assertion no matter by whom it may be uttered, that this system is the true practice, will be received by an intelligent community no further than it receives their sanction. It is for this reason, we court investigation. If it be true, that some of the most learned in the profession of the allopathic school, have advised an investigation of our principles by their pupils, we are encouraged to hope that a bright day is dawning, and that an impulse is now being given to the advancement of our cause, which we can only account for on the ground of the spread of science, intelligence and liberal research which distinguishes the age in which we live.

But this difficulty is notwithstanding very obvious from the fact that, however superior the liberality of this day, and its willingness to estimate the claims of science, yet immense prejudices are to be overcome. The word *prejudice*, could not be introduced with greater propriety in any connection. The world has settled down upon the practice of medicine on allopathic principles, and repudiates every pretension which does not sanction its views, hence all other claims are *prejudged* as false and injurious. How is this prejudgment to be obviated? There is as above stated an unwillingness to investigate. It suggests mental labor—doubt—apprehension, and prejudgment stands as an insupportable barrier in its way.

We might declaim against the *unreasonableness* of prejudice. But this the world admits, while it willingly remains under its smothering influence. There is no principle to which we more willingly both listen and assent than this, that prejudices are *pernicious*. They bar the door of investigation. They have held the pagan and religious world in iron bondage. They influence the political destinies of Europe. Prejudice is not only a horrible apparition, but a gigantic monster who rivets the chains of ignorance, oppression and death, upon individuals as well as nations; and yet strange to say, notwithstanding the world is aware of his mighty and destructive influence, they remove not beyond his reach, but willingly place themselves in a position to experience the effects of his tyranny.

To overcome this it is necessary we possess an independence of character. This appears a new difficulty to the extension of a new system—while all proclaim this independence, few possess it. Men yield themselves to influences which in their hearts they despise. It is



a maxim that "we may as well be out of the world as out of fashion"—not one in a thousand dares step aside from the conventional usages of society—not one man in many has independence to govern his own family or freely to assert his own opinions in the face of opposition upon which he considers himself in any way dependent. Who does not know that the human character is too generally affected with a spirit of sycophancy, which opposes the expression of our own views, and with how much force does this apply to the avowal of new doctrines—to any science against which the world is prejudiced and which it has not investigated. The principle of *shame* is one against which few can advance, while the multitude are heaping reproaches upon those daring to stand forth as the advocates or friends of any man or system, which the world repudiates.

At this day such to a great extent is our condition. Homœopathy suffers under the influence of ignorance, of prejudice, and the want of moral courage to advocate its claims, even where men can neither in reason nor justice deny the evidence to which its many triumphs are entitled. Such being the case, we do not in a single day even hope to supercede principles to which the world has become attached in the acquaintance of ages. We do hope, however, to advance in correspondence with the investigation of the community. However great the change proposed, it has already been adopted by the scientific—such names as Dr. Nott of Union College, Bishop Potter of Pennsylvania, Ex-Gov. Seward, W. Cullen Bryant and other gifted minds, have endorsed the principles of Hahnemann, and however others may doubt, yet it is our opinion that the close of this century will witness the universal extension of our principles. It cannot be otherwise! The darkness which for ages has shaded the medical world in gloom, is destined to pass away beneath the sun of homœopathy.

(To be continued.)

#### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

We continue the selection of symptoms from the "*Chronic Diseases by Hahnemann*."

As we have remarked, the existence of these symptoms is evidence of the presence of a latent virus in the system.

It does not happen that all, and in a large proportion of cases, that many of these symptoms occur in one individual; but where they

exist singly, or in groups, they show the disturbing influence of the inherent miasm.

The more full developement of which by *ordinary exciting causes*, gives rise to diseased conditions of a profound and fatal character. Hence the propriety and importance of appreciating the character and influence of *this primary cause of disease* in the treatment of those who suffer therefrom.

Cold in the head, immediately on going out into the open air; in the room afterwards the head feels as if it were stopped up from the cold.

Catarrh from the slightest exposition to cold mostly during the rough season and in wet weather.

Permanent hoarseness and aphony, often for years; he cannot utter a loud word.

Hoarseness and catarrh, very frequently, or almost continually; his chest is continually affected.

Cough, mostly in the evening after lying down; it always comes on when the head lies deep.

Cough, which wakes the patient after he has slept but a short while.

Cough, especially in the night.

Cough, it is worse early in the morning on waking up.

Dry cough.

Cough, with dry pus-like expectoration, with or without spitting of blood.

Frequent stitches in the chest, with or without cough.

Night-mare; during the night he generally starts from an oppressive dream, but he is unable to stir, to call, to speak; and when he endeavors to move, he suffers intolerable pain, as though he were being torn.

Attacks of suffocation, especially after midnight; the patient has to sit up, to leave his bed, to stoop, standing and leaning on his hands, to open the windows, or go into the open air, etc.; there is beating of the heart, followed by rising from the stomach or gaping; after this the spasm ceases with or without cough and expectoration.

Beating of the heart with anxiety, especially during the night.

Shortness of breath.

A hard, enlarging and indurating gland, with painful stitches in one of the mammae.

Drawing, tearing, straining pains in the small of the back, in the back, in the back of the neck.

Sensation of weight upon the shoulders.

Burning in the soles of the feet.

Numbness of the skin or of the muscles of particular parts and limbs.

Crawling, sometimes pricking and crawling in arms, legs, and other parts, even in the tips of the fingers, as if the parts were benumbed.

Coldness, either frequent or constant, of the whole body, or of one side of the body; also coldness of particular parts, cold hands and feet, that cannot be warmed in the bed during night.

Frequent flushes of heat, especially in the face, more frequently with redness than without it.

Rush of blood to the head.

*Eruptions*, some of them being agreeably-itching pustules, separate from each other, appearing from time to time and passing off again, especially on the fingers or other parts; the pustules burn after having been scratched, they are extremely similar to the genuine eruptions of the itch.

Summer-freckles, spots in the face, upon the hands and upon the chest without sensation, small, round, brown or brownish.

Large brownish spots, often covering whole limbs, arms, neck, chest, &c., without sensation or with itching.

Yellowness of the skin, yellow spots, homogeneous, around the eyes, the mouth, on the neck, etc., without sensations.

Glandular swellings around the neck, in the groin, in the bends of the joints, the bend of the elbow, of the knee, in the axillæ, also in the mammæ.

Increasing susceptibility for cold, either of the whole body (wetting the hands with warm and then with cold water, as is done in washing, sometimes induces a cold,) or of particular parts, head, neck, breast, abdomen, feet, etc., in a slight draught, or after slight moistening of the parts; even already in a cool room, or when the air is moist with rain, or the barometer low.

The pains which have been formerly experienced in parts injured, wounded, broken, although they are now cured and cicatrized, become again very acute at the approach of an important change of the weather, intense cold, storm, atmosphere pregnant with electricity.

Attacks of sudden heaviness in the arms or legs.

Attacks of paralytic weakness, paralytic lassitude of one arm, one hand, one leg, without pain, either sudden and temporary, or be-

ginning imperceptibly and continuing progressively.

Sudden bending of the knees.

During a walk in the open air, sudden attacks of weakness especially in the legs.

The limbs feel easily benumbed; this numbness is induced by slight causes, for example, leaning the head upon the arm, crossing the legs while sitting, etc.

Drowsiness during the day, often immediately after sitting down, especially after a meal.

Difficult to fall asleep in the evening on lying down; lying awake for hours.

The night is spent in a sort of slumber.

Anxiety prevents sleeping every night; this anxiety often is so violent, as to oblige one to leave the bed, and walk about the room.

Deprived of sleep, at any rate of sound sleep, from three o'clock in the morning.

Speaking or screaming during sleep.

All sorts of troublesome pains in the night; thirst, dryness of the throat, mouth, frequent urinating.

On waking up early in the morning, he feels drowsy, unrefreshed, more tired than he did in the evening before, on lying down; after rising, it takes hours before he recovers from this weariness.

All sorts of moral and mental disturbances.

Oppressive anxiety early on waking up.

Oppressive anxiety in the evening on lying down.

Repeated attacks of fearfulness during the day (with or without pain,) or at certain hours of the day or night; during these attacks, the patient has no rest, is obliged to move this way and that way; sometimes sweat breaks out.

Easily frightened, often by the most trifling occurrence; this causes the patient to sweat and to tremble.

Dread of labor, in persons who are otherwise extremely active; they have a decided repugnance to labor.

Excessive sensitiveness.

Irritability from weakness.

Sudden changes of humor; often the patient is very gay and even extremely so, and then suddenly low-spirited, for instance; on account of his disease, or something of no importance.

Sudden transition from cheerfulness to sadness, or peevishness without any apparent cause.

These are some of the principal symptoms of latent miasm which I have had occasion to



observe. Their frequent occurrence, or their continuance show that it is becoming active in the system. They are at the same time the elements which constitute the innumerable secondary complaints arising from its reaction in persons unfavourably situated, and assuming all sorts of forms *in proportion as a person's constitution, education, habits, occupation, external circumstances and the physical or moral impressions to which he is subject, differ*. The number of those secondary ailments which are described as distinct and independent diseases in the older pathological works, far exceeds the morbid symptoms which we find enumerated in these works.

Those ailments are the characteristic secondary symptoms of the miasm, which manifests itself by these symptoms as a hydra-headed monster pregnant with disease.

### HOMŒOPATHY IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

Nunda, Nov. 21st, 1846.

MESSRS. EDITORS:

One year ago last August, I commenced the practice of medicine as a healing art, on the very ground where for ten years I had practised allopathy; during which time I had regarded all other systems and theories vile empiricism; unconscious that I was drawing at the breast of the eternal mother of quackery, and lulled to repose in her deceptive arms.

Homœopathy had, in common with all other systems shared my disapprobation, ridicule and most unreasonable opposition, whilst in the practice of allopathy, from which I experienced richly merited difficulties and troubles in the introduction of it among my former friends and patrons. But it is truly gratifying to me, that all, without one exception, have since adopted the system, induced to do so by the unparalleled success attending the administration of medicines according to this system. I am not so much gratified by their adoption of the system, as that the system is in every way worthy of their confidence and efforts to sustain it.

This system is gaining ground fast in Western New York,—the demand for it, is greater than the supply of physicians of this school. The people are getting awake to their true interests upon the subject of medicine, and allopathy is doomed. A few years more and that system will sleep with its immortal founders,

*Galen, Hippocrates, Esculapius* the god-father and Apollo his grandsire, and Hercules the great-grandfather of all the royal progeny, from whose lineage has sprung and by whose efforts has been perpetuated a curse, more deadly than the pestiferous breath of the dreaded upas, more poisoned than the poisonous shirt of Nisus, that menaces with a dreadful, but insidious destruction, the fairest prospects of our race; which but for the Hahnemanian reform, would finally sap the foundations of health, and make every human system the theatre of incurable disease, and render every civilized country more to be dreaded than the cursed land of *Idumea*. SUCH IS ALLOPATHY.

The most inveterate diseases I find to treat, are occasioned by allopathic drugs. Of such, I find cases which I cannot cure, nor do I believe they can often be cured, by any nor all means. I have been able to demonstrate the curative power of medicines prepared homœopathically which exhibits a striking contrast between this system and allopathy, in the cure of both acute and chronic diseases.

The results of the two kinds of treatment in scarlet fever are as follows: of 15 cases in June last, 4 were treated allopathically, of whom three died; 11 were treated homœopathically, 10 of whom speedily recovered and one died, being complicated with scrofula, which previous to the scarlet fever, had rendered the girl a mass of disease.

Within three weeks, there have been 3 cases of inflammation of the brain in this vicinity. I treated homœopathically, speedily recovered under the use of Acon: 12th, and Bell: 30th; two treated allopathically, died; one a robust healthy man about 30 years old; the other a girl about fourteen years old. The one treated homœopathically, was about 60 years old, of feeble constitution.

The allopathic physicians have a great many very severe cases of sickness. Homœopaths have none or scarcely any, taking the story of the old school physicians, and perhaps it is literally true. But they don't know that the treatment makes the difference.

I have cured some cases of chronic disease, in a prompt manner, with the high potencies of homœopathic medicines, that withstood and grew worse from year to year under allopathic treatment. I was in the habit at first, of using no higher than the 10th or 12th attenuations, which produced but little effect. I now use none less than the 30th in chronic dis-

eases; such act promptly and surely, when well selected and applied.

So you may let your readers know how we are getting along with this great reform out this way.

Yours truly,

D. MERIT DAKE, M. D.

Drs. Kirby & Snow.

### CURATIVE EFFECTS OF HIGH POTENCIES.

The Homœopathic Examiner for Nov. 1846, has a case of copper poisoning, related by Croserio of Paris; and translated by James Kitchen, M. D., of Phila., Pa., successfully treated with *cocculus* 300 att: aconite 300; merc. 300; and nux vom. 600.

Croserio among other things says: "Aconite, merc. and nux vom. were chosen according to the law *similia similibus*, which should always be kept in view, even when seeking for an antidote, which, according to the above facts, can only really be such a substance, the pathogenic effects of which have the greatest analogy with those of agents of which it may be recognized as the remedy. The word employed to designate this property is then completely antipathic to the doctrines of homœopathy, and is a vulgar word borrowed by Hahnemann from the allopathic school, and to be exact, should be replaced by the word homœopathic, or an equivalent.

All the effects related above were obtained by dynamization, 300 and upwards. What a rebuke to the partizans of large doses in acute affections! Here, in the very presence of the morbid cause, the prompt action of the highest attenuations could not certainly have been surpassed by massive doses, and the materialists, even the most obstinate, cannot withstand the evidence of facts. After the cure had been nearly completed, the patient drank coffee which caused, "colicky pains, stools streaked with blood." Croserio goes on to remark: "The injurious effects produced by taking coffee would seem to weaken the principles I have just laid down in relation to antidotes, since its action in some measure destroyed the beneficial effects of the remedies administered, though in its symptoms we find neither bloody stools nor tenesmus, etc. But who can flatter himself that he knows all the symptoms that this protean substance is capable of producing? Is it not owing to this multiplicity, to this almost infinite variety of symptomss, that this

substance owes the property of being, with a very few exceptions, the universal antidote of all the medicinal agents in nature?"

The above conjecture in regard to coffee may be true. One of the Editors of this Journal can produce in himself a bloody stool, with slight tenesmus by drinking a cup of coffee; if the coffee is drank in the evening, these effects are almost sure to take place the following morning. This has occurred to him more than fifty times. He has never suffered from piles, nor any other affection whatever attended by an evacuation of blood by stool.

A case occurred in our practice a few years ago, which furnishes additional testimony on this point. A gentleman aged about 55, who for years had drank strong coffee two or three or more times daily; and who for 16 years had suffered every morning by a bloody stool, sharp pains in the small of the back and tenesmus. He mistook it for piles. We induced him to omit his coffee, and by the aid of an occasional dose of nux vom: 30 att: in one year he was nearly well; and in our judgment would have been cured completely, but he would every few months indulge himself with a cup of coffee, which always induced in him a slight return of the bloody stool, pains and tenesmus.

The doctrine of the curative power of attenuated drugs being acknowledged, it becomes a subject of interest to the physician to determine to what extent the process of attenuation may be carried, and still preserve the curative effects of the remedies.

Numerous and well authenticated cases of cure similar to the above, effected by high potencies, from 200 to 2000, have been published, and we are gratified to perceive that the tendency of the more thorough and accomplished practitioners of our art in this country as well as in Europe, is to the use of high attenuations, at least to test their utility and to discriminate cases requiring their aid.

We think every practitioner should be familiar with the action of drugs in the various degrees of attenuation, for we are assured that often cures are made, *by changing the attenuation.*

We have sometimes succeeded with the 3d after having failed with the 30th, and often have we been equally successful with still higher attenuations after an unsuccessful trial of the 30th. Hence it is important that we should know the value and power of the different attenuations, otherwise we cannot be in posses-



sion of means sometimes essential to success. To illustrate this we will give two or three cases from our own practice, and we are frequently informed of similar results by other practitioners.

A child during the last spring, had whooping cough which we treated with the remedies indicated at the time, and the violence of which was readily controlled, but she was left through the summer and fall with occasional paroxysms of coughing (spasmodic in its character) and accompanied with or sometimes followed by sneezing. We thought Belladonna indicated and were disappointed in its effects; we used it at intervals in the various attenuations from the 30th down. Not succeeding with this remedy we resorted occasionally to others with no benefit. Being satisfied that Bella. was the remedy the best indicated, it occurred to us to give it in a higher form, and with the administration of a single dose of the 200th, the paroxysms entirely disappeared.

Having occasion to use mercurius for a case of apthæ (sprue,) it did not improve as we had reason to expect. No other remedy being so well indicated, we gave a single dose of the 200th, which was followed by a prompt cure. Subsequently having a similar case, we gave mercurius in the low attenuations without benefit. The mother was at the time suffering severely with excoriated and ulcerated nipples, for which we had used arnica, sulphur and calcarea to no purpose. A prompt cure followed the use of merc. 200 for the child, and sulphur 400 for the mother, (each one dose.)

A lad after an attack of bilious fever, was left with a dry cough, pain and tenderness in the right hypochondriac region. The pain was severe when coughing and breathing deeply. Bryonia 18 having failed to afford relief, we gave one dose of the 200th which effected a prompt cure of the cough and the pain.

The case given by Dr. Wells in No. 12 of the Journal, affords a striking illustration in point.

Practitioners should have the various attenuations. They are essential to many cases in which a resort is usually had to the low atts. and even to tinctures, to no other purpose than to aggravate and confuse the case, or to induce an improper change of remedies.

## DISEASES OF CHILDREN, DENTITION.

That there is great want of proper attention to, or mismanagement of children during the period of dentition, we think the very many disorders to which they are subject, the great mortality, and the general, almost universal, *early* decay of the teeth clearly indicate.

As we have seen, when a predisposition to disease exists, the process of teething operating as an exciting cause, rouses it to action and produces local or general disturbances. The swelled and inflamed gums, the slavering and irritability are but the manifestations of a latent virus which is the cause of the predisposition, and which it should be the great object of medical art to eradicate. Merely subduing its effects by means that have no power to remove the cause, is not all that *rational* medicine should be capable of accomplishing.

The practice of cutting the gums we regard as objectionable, because it is painful and unnatural, unnecessary and inadequate to the attainment of the legitimate end of scientific medicine.

How much influence among other bad practices the cutting of the gums may have upon the decay of the teeth we are not prepared to say, while we can see no good reasons to sustain it. It at best accomplishes the mere removal of the *effects* of a miasm, inherent in the system, and likely at any time on the operation of other exciting causes, to produce other and more serious derangements. The eradication of which ought at least to be the aim, if it be not the boast of rational treatment. If the cause is constitutional, and teething only a natural function—not a local disease, the treatment evidently should be constitutional, and as cutting the gums proposes to do nothing more than to treat the local symptoms and afford temporary relief, other and better means should be sought and applied. But it will be said that temporary relief should first be given, and then constitutional treatment should not only be adopted, but that it would be more successful; but this course is objectionable, as the means capable of ridding the system of the constitutional cause, are also competent to afford prompt relief, hence the practice is altogether unnecessary.

There are other means within the compass of scientific medicine which under the same

circumstances can accomplish all that the troublesome and unnatural practice of cutting the gums is capable of, in a manner more prompt, safe, easy and effectual.

In whatever manner this constitutional cause (predisposition,) manifests itself, the disturbances it gives rise to, serve to indicate remedies that have the power to allay and cure it. And these disturbances should not be confused by means, no matter how simple, which have no power beyond a bare temporary palliation, but the remedies which they indicate, should be carefully and faithfully selected and administered, and the effects be thus removed together with the cause giving rise to them. This, mere local treatment is inadequate to accomplish.

Till a more rational, scientific system of treating children is adopted, what evidence have we that the numerous diseases which afflict them will be lessened, the mortality diminished, and the early and unfortunate decay of the teeth arrested?

To destroy by a palliative operation the indication thus presented of true remedies—to lose the opportunity thus afforded of riding the system of a virus, which otherwise would cleave to it through life, and prove the source of innumerable difficulties, and finally of fatal diseases, is as unbecoming a scientific adaptation of means to ends, as it is injurious to the subsequent health and welfare of the child. The symptoms thus developed are invaluable as serving to point out the proper remedies, and they should not be dispersed or confused by means that have no power to cure, or to eradicate from the system the primary or inherent cause of their development.

There may be cases in which the latent miasm, being roused to a degree almost at once to overwhelm a constitution—hence weak and flaccid, and in which the local symptoms are prominent and serve to keep up constitutional conditions that may not under such circumstances so speedily give way to the use of the proper constitutional treatment, it would be advisable to cut the gums; but these cases are rare, and do not invalidate the soundness of the principles which should dictate the treatment of children at the period of dentition.

## REMARKS BY HAHNEMANN.

The following prefatory remarks by Hahnemann, are from a work published in 1831, entitled "*Systematic exposition of the pure effects of remedies by Dr. Weber.*"

"Allopathy has still to inform us how we are to recognise a disease, and distinguish one case of disease from another, if not by the diagnostic signs, that is, by the symptoms of each particular case. For we are not to have it crammed down our throats now-a-days that this may be done merely by what is called the experienced glance of the practical man.

"And if it can only be done by attention to the peculiar symptoms of each case of disease, then we may ask, how is the appropriate remedy to be chosen? if it be by mere chance, or a shrewd guess, that this or that drug may perhaps be capable of curing such and such a state, no knowledge or even concern being deemed requisite as to whether the substance corresponds curatively to the totality of the symptoms of the disease in question?

"And if physicians, who, as they themselves avow, care nothing for such knowledge, were hitherto guided by chance or guess in the selection of remedies for their patients, without knowing whether the prescribed remedy corresponded curatively to the totality of the symptoms of the disease, how could they give out that such practice on the unfortunate patient was an art, not to say a *rational scientific mode of treatment*? it must have been so understood, like *lucus a non lucendo*!

"Or should they, as usual, attempt to impose on our credulity by saying that they knew from experience that this or that medicine removed the *causi morbi*, and that they consequently acted in the most rational manner in which physicians could,—they cured namely the cause,—the recent discovery of the only true original sources of all chronic diseases, in the three chronic miasms, and chiefly in psora, the most frequent of all the sources of chronic diseases, renders it as clear as day, that the assertion of allopathists 'that they have always effected casual cures,' is nothing but an idle boast; for, from the remotest antiquity until the present day, this latter only true cause of the vast preponderance of chronic diseases, psora, has remained concealed, and has but recently been discovered by homœopathy. How could they have effected cures of causes, without ever having dreamt of this to them, always hidden cause of innumerable (nay, if we except the few arising from syphilis and sycosis, of all,) chronic diseases?

"The truth is, they imagined causes for the diseases they treated, and imagined their remedies to be possessed of the power of removing these imaginary causes. The unfortunate result of all their treatment of chronic diseases arising from this great source, is a striking confirmation of what we have stated.

"Is it, however, true, that for the cure of a disease, a knowledge, a most intimate knowledge of the remedy, as to its correspondence in



a curative point of view to the totality of the symptoms, is necessary and indispensable for the proper treatment of the patient, as no reasonable person will deny, and as the allopathist himself must confess, if he will not palpably deceive his patient; then it is easy to perceive that an indefatigable proving of each remedy, as to its particular power of altering the state of a healthy individual, must be obtained before presuming to administer it in diseases of the human organism which is so easily deranged.

"If in the civilized world the fortunate man meets with esteem and consideration, how much more should the humane heart beat with commiseration for the unfortunate, and how much more zealous should we be for the deliverance of the miserable being who has lost even a portion of that most valuable of all earthly treasures—health!

"What a reprobate course is that to pursue, when called to the aid of a sick person, to make him still worse in consequence of some absurd preconceived notions, and, without caring about the selection of the proper remedy, to rob him of the remainder of his health, of his life itself, with inappropriate, consequently injurious drugs.

"The present age, with its evident tendency to increasing sympathy and warm philanthropy, (the greatest of virtues,) will certainly not submit longer to this lavish and hard-hearted waste of human life, and hence it will know how to appreciate the divine revelation of the pure actions of remedies which homœopathy has given to the world, a knowledge of which is indispensable to the true physician, to enable him to restore, (when lost,) that most precious of all earthly possessions, health! and so to raise himself to rank among the greatest benefactors of humanity.

"Ten years since, the philanthropic physician complained that this knowledge was still insufficient, and that many diseases consequently remained incurable. No wonder! for before homœopathy existed, the many thousands that bore the name of physicians, cared for nothing but the name of the medicine, and what properties this or that authority had imagined it possessed of. But now this knowledge—thanks to the Great Ruler of our destinies!—has so increased, that we are forced to wish for some systematic arrangement to facilitate our inspection of its great extent, &c."

*Coethen, 13th October, 1830.*

#### HAHNEMANN ON COFFEE.

These and other natural pains and unpleasant sensations which are a part of the wise laws of our nature, are diminished and rendered almost insensible by the first operation of coffee, the melancholy results whereof are not seen, or at most only imagined.

The primary operation of coffee excites the sexual passion, which, in our age, is refined

into the chief enjoyment of our existence, more than any other artificial means. Voluptuous images arise in the mind with the quickness of lightning, on slight occasions; to excite the organs of generation to ecstasy, is the work of a few moments, emission is almost irrepressible. The sexual passion is developed by coffee, in both sexes, ten or fifteen years too early, in the tenderest, the most unripe years: a refinement which has the most visible effect on our morality and mortality—to say nothing of the premature impotence which results from it.

The effects we have specified are seen in a still stronger light in persons of peculiarly irritable temperament, or such as have been enervated by the frequent use of coffee and by sedentary habits. In all the dispositions of body and feelings which coffee produces in such persons, every unprejudiced individual can see something unnatural and extravagant. An exaggerated sensibility, or a merriment which often goes much farther than the nature of the subject warrants, a tenderness verging on the hysterical, and exaggerated sadness or wit not wholly subdued by discretion; a stronger contraction of the muscles on the face, which becomes caricature; in place of a smile at a slight jest, a moderate surprise or a moderate display of grief or sympathy.

Even the muscles of the rest of the body show an unnatural extravagant mobility—all is life, all is motion, even when there is little cause for it, during the first hours after partaking of strong, or (to imitate the incorrect language of the world at large) *good* coffee. The ideas and the pictures of the fancy sweep in crowded ranks and in a rapid stream before the seat of imagination and feeling in the brain; an artificially hurried, artificially excited life!

In a state of nature, it requires some effort to recollect clearly any thing long since past; but immediately after our coffee, the stores of memory leap, so to speak, to our tongues and talkativeness, haste, and a letting slip something we should not have mentioned, are often the consequences.

Moderation and prudence are wholly wanting. The cold reflective seriousness of our forefathers, the solid firmness of their will their resolution and their judgment, the duration of their not speedy but powerful and judicious bodily movements, which once marked the original character of the Germans—all this

noble, original impress of our nature disappears before the medicinal beverage, and gives way to over-hasty attempts, rash resolutions immature decisions, levity and fickleness, talkativeness, inconstancy, rapid mobility of the muscles, without permanent results, in theatrical elegances.

I am aware that the German must drink coffee if he would revel in pleasantries, if he would weave together flimsy romances, and produce frothy *jeux d'esprit*, and the German female needs coffee, if she would be brilliant and sentimental in modish circles. The ballet-dancer, the improvisatore, the mountebank, the juggler, the sharper, and the faro-banker, need coffee; as does also the fashionable musical virtuoso for his dizzy rapidity, and the omnipresent fashionable physician, when he wishes to flutter through ninety-nine visits of a morning. Let us leave to these their unnatural stimulus, and with it its consequences on human health and happiness.

#### ETHEREAL VAPOR.

We have witnessed some few experiments with this new preparation, which were not so successful as have been represented.

It is said to be composed of sulphuric ether and morphine. The effects ascribed to it cannot in all cases be produced, and when they are, the duration is too short for many important and yet common operations; while the homœopathist will perceive serious objections to its use. We shall refer to it again.

#### BRITISH HOMŒOPATHIC SOCIETY.

The first annual assembly of the *British Homœopathic Society*, was held in London, on the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th of August 1846. It was well attended. The President, Dr. Quin delivered an able address, and interesting papers were read on various subjects; also, it was determined to establish a Public Dispensary, attached to the British Homœopathic Society; that it be on such a basis that a few wards may be furnished for the admission of patients suffering from acute disease; and that a room for a library and lecture theatre be included in the institution. Dr. Chapman, in advocating this measure, said: "He considered that the establishment of such a dispensary would give a tone to the society, and show to the world that it was a working body. He thought it

should be set a-going without delay; that all the members of the society should use their utmost exertions to obtain subscriptions for it, as it would be a national and not merely a local institution. It could likewise be made into a school, where lectures on homœopathy and clinical instruction might be given." Thus it appears that homœopathy is advancing in England.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. I.

New York, Saturday, January 9, 1847.

NO. 18.

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DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

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DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JAN. 9, 1847.

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## PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

From the time Hahnemann promulgated his views of the treatment of disease until now, the tendency has been to modify his rules of practice. To this we could not object, if his practice had been thoroughly tested, and found in-

competent to cure the sick; but this is not so, for it may be ascertained that only a very small number of his professed disciples have complied with his advice, "do as I have done;" and in no one instance, so far as we know, has any one abandoned homœopathy, or had his confidence diminished in it, by treating diseases as he did; but there is reason to believe, that few, if any, can feel to rely exclusively on homœopathic practice who do not follow his method of cure.

We are of those who fearlessly avow the opinion, that the practice of Hahnemann is the most perfect, yet known; and farther, that improvement in the healing art, can only continue by a strict adherence to the laws he developed, and which govern this branch of science. We do not mean to say that this practice is perfect; but we do mean to say, that the laws which govern it are perfect, and cannot be improved. If this is not so, they are not laws, and homœopathy is not true, and must be given up.

It is asserted by some medical writers that the disciples of Hahnemann depart from his practice. We must with deep regret admit that there is too much truth in this charge, yet, it is no proof of the incompetency of homœopathy; it only proves the incompetency of some who call themselves by its name. We are aware that many who claim the high honor of union with homœopathy; who by pride, or vanity, or indolence, or prejudice, or other causes, have been prevented from a thorough study of the writings of Hahnemann, and have never been imbued with his spirit, and know little of the laws which guided him in the treatment of diseases.

Homœopathy is founded upon immutable laws which are consistent with one another, and with every thing else in nature; and any departure from them in practice is unsafe; and this consequence is sustained both by reason and experience. Hahnemann perceived and



understood this; and hence he was never charged as some of his followers have been, with professing one mode of practice, and pursuing another. Of all the slanders of his enemies not one ever charged him in a single instance with departing from his principles. His success in curing diseases, is unparalleled in the history of medicine. He attended to the active duties of his profession for nearly half a century, yet his popularity was never greater than at the latest period of his life.

He cured the sick of diseases which others could not cure. He relieved multitudes of their sufferings in "a safe, prompt and pleasant," manner, and made known how he accomplished these great works; yet many, who profess to be of his school, depart from him in practice, and fail almost daily in their own efforts, and disappoint the expectations of their patients, and then join with the allopathic school in ridicule and denunciation of the practice of Hahnemann.

In this country the first introduction of homœopathy was in a modified form, so much so, that for years in this city, allopathic practitioners in daily intercourse with those who claimed to be the first homœopaths, did not perceive any difference in their doctrine or practice with their own. And such has been the miserable manner this system has been managed in this city, that had it not have been for the gross absurdities of allopathy, and the diminishing confidence of the people in the old school practice, homœopathy would scarcely have had a place to stand upon to this day. We have known men, who had not heard of homœopathy, for as many weeks as Hahnemann had practiced it for years, come out in pamphlets and newspapers to let the public know that they did not agree with him; and yet, call themselves by his name, and do so to this day. The universality of the law of cure was rejected; the doctrine of dynamization of medicines was rejected; the doctrine of chronic diseases was rejected; the rule for the repetition of doses was disregarded; the method of examining cases as laid down in the Organon was only partially adopted; and the mode put forth in the same work for the selection of the remedies was also in part rejected. In truth, there is reason to believe, that some, in their eagerness to become much greater men than Hahnemann, did not wait until they had tested his practice, but assured that its principles could be improved, they step by step went so far astray in vain speculations and

egotistical assumptions, become blinded to the truth, and have come to rely upon their own judgments, in opposition to the experience of Hahnemann and his disciples; to the substitution of empiricism, based upon the impure resources of allopathy, for the safe and immutable principles furnished by the homœopathic law; to have sacrificed upon the altar of vanity and self-interest the simple truths of nature; to have secured the contempt of the allopathic school, and to have lost the confidence of that of homœopathy; confused the public mind, and so far as their influence goes to have retarded for the time the advancement of the true principles in medicine.

To be Continued.)

### OBJECTIONS TO HOMŒOPATHY.

*Homœopathy cannot be depended upon in acute diseases.*

If the homœopathic principle, that "similars are cured by similars," is a law of nature which serves as a criterion for the selection of medicinal agents in the treatment of diseases in general, it must of necessity be true for acute as well as chronic diseases. If such was not the case, it would not deserve the name of a general principle, and still less, that of a law of nature. An appeal to the main test of practical medicine, *experience*, must decide the question; and this appeal we fearlessly make. There are now several thousand homœopathic physicians in different parts of the world, who in their almost invariably extensive practice, follow the precepts of homœopathy exclusively. Will any body be childish enough to deny that acute cases of every description do occur in their practice as well as in that of other physicians? and do we hear that more patients die of acute diseases under their care than under allopathic treatment? Is it not, on the contrary, comparatively rare that homœopathy loses a patient under acute disease.\*

\* If it happens that homœopathy loses a patient of acute disease, the case is sure to be eagerly grasped at as an event by our opponents; and the public who fortunately have learned to judge for themselves, do not soon hear the end of it. From the manner of advertising to such cases one might be led to suppose, that allopathy never loses a patient of acute disease, or that bleeding, blistering and purging would have saved the unfortunate victim of Homœopathy without a shadow of doubt. This sort of opposition, however, never finally answers its purpose; on the contrary, public attention is only roused on the subject, and a candid investigation exposes the unfairness of the accusation thus brought forward;

Any one who will consider the statistical results obtained at public institutions in the homœopathic treatment of acute disease, will see how far more successful it is in this class of diseases than allopathy. We shall only quote a passage from an excellent book written by an impartial and distinguished Dublin Physician, who says: "Whatever the opponents of this system may put forward against it, I am bound to say, and I am far from being a homœopathic practitioner, that the cases I saw treated by it in the Vienna Hospital were fully as acute and virulent as those that have come under my observation elsewhere; and the statistics show, that the mortality is much less than in other hospitals of that city. Knolz the Austrian *Protomedicus*, has published those for 1838, which exhibit a mortality of but five or six per cent., while three similar institutions on the allopathic plan, enumerated before it in the same table, show a mortality as high as from eight to ten per cent." In the treatment of cholera, the average result has been, according to official returns, that 8 1-2 to 9 per cent. died under the care of homœopathy, whereas forty to fifty per cent. died under allopathic treatment. We therefore maintain, what long experience and daily observation confirm, that there is no case of acute disease arising whether from inflammatory action or other morbid causes, and however virulent and threatening may be its character, which may be arrested and subdued by homœopathic remedies much more quickly and effectually than by allopathic treatment. The reasons why homœopathy is so successful in the treatment of acute cases are—

1. Homœopathy has an unerring principle upon which it chooses the appropriate medicines which specifically assist the health-restoring efforts of nature.

2. Homœopathy when properly practiced, does not weaken the vital energy of the patient by bleeding, blistering, purging, and similar

it generally increases friends and supporters, and thus reacts against the parties who resort to it. As long as our adversaries persist in their usual superficial mode of opposition, they involuntarily advance those interests they intend to overthrow, and others are led to believe that they have no better arguments to bring forward against the system. Let them then stand in their opposition upon purely scientific grounds, and if they then succeed in establishing the untruth of homœopathy, we shall gladly abide by the consequences.

measures, nor does it impede and confuse the efforts of nature by large doses of active drugs chosen and mixed together without fixed principles.

3. The reaction of the body stands in direct proportion to the acuteness of the disease; the more active and acute the disease is, the more rapid is the effect of the medicine.

4. The usually long period of convalescence after allopathic treatment, is comparatively short after homœopathic treatment, once the morbid symptoms are radically subdued.

It cannot reasonably be expected that homœopathy should be invariable successful; and there are three principal causes of occasional non-success in acute diseases:

1. The constitution of the patient may be previously so unsound, that violent acute diseases, such as fevers, inflammations, &c., assume a dangerous and complicated character which often eludes the control of medicine. In such cases allopathy would not have been more successful than homœopathy.

2. Homœopathy is frequently called upon to treat severe acute diseases after bleeding, blistering, purging and similar unfavorable measures have already been resorted to; in such cases medicine has little power in restoring the vital energy which has thus been unduly diminished.

3. The amount of vital power may be at such a low ebb from old age, previous disease or other causes, that reaction upon the most appropriate medicines is imperfect, amelioration only temporary and partial, and final dissolution inevitable.

*Homœopathic cures are only effected after a severe aggravation.*

To this we answer:

1. The phenomenon of homœopathic aggravation is exceedingly rare under a properly conducted treatment. It is principally induced by an injudicious repetition of the medicines when it is not required, and thus frequently the fault of the practitioner and not of Homœopathy.

2. If it happens as it sometimes does, even with the greatest caution, in very sensitive patients, it is generally transient and harmless, and followed in most cases, through the succeeding reaction, by very sensible improvement.

*Homœopathy is quackery.*

A syllogism may be refuted, not so a hard name; and we must leave it to the intelligent reader to judge, whether a system of practi-



cal medicine of such perfectly philosophical construction as homœopathy, which lays its precepts and means fairly before the public, courts inquiry, and is open to the adoption of all medical men, deserves such a name. That homœopathy, as is the case with allopathy, will fall into the hands of quacks, of which strong symptoms already manifest themselves even in this country, there can be no doubt, and no direct means can prevent it. It is only by showing to the public how to distinguish the properly informed Homœopath from the homœopathic quack, that they may be to a certain degree prevented from becoming the prey of the latter. Homœopathy itself can be no more responsible for his doings than allopathy is for those of the allopathic quack.

In this place we think it our duty to say a few words about those unprofessional persons who under the euphonious name of "*Amateurs*," frequently engage in homœopathic practice. The number of persons who are convinced of the truth of homœopathy, and have an entire confidence in its practice, has, in proportion, by far outstripped that of properly informed homœopathic physicians. Many, particularly those who live at a distance from a homœopathic practitioner, are therefore frequently placed in an awkward predicament, when cases of sudden disease occur in their family, and are either compelled to apply to allopathy, in which they have little or no confidence, or to leave their patients without any medical assistance. As long as medical practitioners do not adopt homœopathy more generally than they have hitherto done, unprofessional persons are therefore, obliged to make a virtue of necessity and try to administer homœopathic medicines themselves as well as they can. Imperfect as their treatment will always be, if compared to that of a properly informed professional man, yet, under present circumstances, one cannot blame the father and mother who try to get some information on the practice of homœopathy to avail themselves of it in case of necessity. As long as they confine themselves to the treatment of slight acute diseases, this practice can now scarcely be objected to.

1. Because there would be no time to send for or to have the regular attendance of a distant homœopathic physician.

2. Because nature being generally in acute diseases, powerful and correct health-restoring efforts, if not interfered with by violent meas-

ures, makes a very efficacious ally and assistant.

3. Because the symptoms of the simpler kinds of acute disease are generally so distinctly marked, that often certain remedies can be pointed out for certain disorders.

There is no doubt that intelligent unprofessional persons may be frequently of great use in those cases. But when they outstep this province and presume, from the circumstance of some acute patients having got well in their hands, that they may undertake the treatment of any chronic disease, however severe and complicated, we protest in the name of common sense, and in the name of homœopathic science, against such hazardous and presumptuous dabbling in a practice, the proper exercise of which not only requires a full acquaintance with the different branches of medical science, but also, in itself, years of positive severe study. Any one who will for one moment reflect on the subject, must allow that the task of bringing back to their proper and regular functions, organs which have been disordered for years, and of inducing the conditions of a durable continuance of that regularity, is one of the most delicate, complicated and difficult, if not the most difficult occupation that man can apply himself to. Therefore if we cannot, under existing circumstances, have any vital objection to unprofessional persons applying homœopathic medicines in some acute cases of disease, we ought to protest most unequivocally against their meddling with the treatment of chronic disorders.

4. Because these diseases are generally so complicated and intricate with regard to causes, successive changes of form, symptoms, &c., that it not only requires positive extensive medical information, but also great tact, judgment and penetration, sharpened by the habit of observing disease, to treat them with durable success.

2. Because a chronic disease the treatment of which has been wrongly begun and continued with inappropriate means, is frequently rendered so complicated and confused, that no medical skill can afterwards totally undo the mischief thus involuntarily produced by the amateur practitioner.

3. Because, if necessary and inevitable, a homœopathic professional practitioner may be consulted by letter on these diseases.

If one considers that the venerable author of Homœopathy, who better than any one else

understood its practice, after fifty years of extensive experience, frequently spent hours in research and consideration before he decide about the remedy to be given in complicated chronic cases, one cannot but be painfully struck by the extraordinary levity and assurance with which the already numerous tribe of half-informed amateur practitioners talk of administering sulphur, calcarea, sepia, causticum, phosphor, arsenic, silicea, and other of our most powerful medicines, as if it were of the simplest and easiest thing in nature. They seem to have no idea, that the proper choice of these medicines is, on account of their most numerous effects, and their protracted and penetrating action, a matter of exceeding difficulty and nicety; and to imagine that all that is required for proper homœopathic practice is some book on homœopathic domestic medicine, a little box with small globules, and at the very best Jahr's Manual, or some other imperfect extract of the *materia medica*. Incredible as it may appear, yet it is nevertheless perfectly true and of common occurrence, that people most seriously attribute the numerous failures of such random practice to homœopathic science and not to the want of proper information and skill of the amateur.

However, much as we object to such injudicious dabbling ourselves, it appears to us rather strange that such objections should come from persons who ought first to consider well their own respective position before they attack Homœopathy on the grounds in question.—*Concise View &c.*

#### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

The selection of symptoms which we have given in preceding numbers as "evidence of the existence of a latent miasm in the system," more generally indicate *disturbance* of the vital action and the consequent derangement of functions of different organs, than actual disease or change of structure.

The disturbances which this miasm may give rise to are innumerable, and its tendency is to produce, by long continued action, diseased conditions of a profound, permanent, often of an incurable character. It constitutes the predisposition to disease from which so few are exempt, and which, on the operation of the various exciting causes, becomes developed and determined upon some one or more organs.

The action and influence of this miasm are varied in different constitutions, in accordance

with the mode of life, occupation, etc., of each individual, and its effects are numerous and severe in proportion to the strength of the constitution, and its power of resistance. This miasm, running through successive generations, has much to do with the vast difference perceptible in the original strength and vigor of constitution which characterizes different individuals. Its influence in determining the tone and vigor of the system, the firmness and compactness of the tissues, and the energy of the vital action—as well as in predisposing the system to derangement and disease—is a subject of interest to the medical philosopher, and of profound importance to the physician.

It predisposes the system to acute attacks, fevers, inflammations, rheumatism, etc., and increases its susceptibility to the influence of contagious diseases.

The severity and frequency of these attacks are in proportion to the profoundness and activity of this latent miasm. When roused to intense action and coupled with some other exciting causes of disturbance, its effects are severe and the consequences to the patient are of the most threatening or fatal kind.

The slightest derangements which in some individuals are promptly arrested by the action of a single dose of an appropriate remedy, or are readily overcome by the power of nature, in others, when complicated with the effect of this miasm, not only resist the action of proper remedies, but become difficulties of the most painful, obstinate, and permanent character.

Hence when it is known to exist, it should receive the careful attention of the physician, with a view to its eradication; thus lessening the frequency of these attacks, and finally of removing the predisposition to them.

The affections of a chronic character "the secondary ailments," which have their origin in this miasm, "are described as distinct and independent diseases in the older pathological works, and bear the following names:"

"Scrofula, rickets, spina ventosa, atrophy, marasmus, consumption, pulmonary consumption, asthma, tabes mucosa, laryngeal phthisis, chronic catarrh, constant cold in the head, difficult dentition, worms, and consequent diseases, dyspepsia, spasms in the abdomen, hypochondria, hysteria, anasarca, dropsy, ovarian dropsy, dropsy of the uterus, hydrocele, hydrocephalus, amenorrhœa and dismenorrhœa, hemorrhage from the uterus, hematemeses, hemoptysis, hemorrhages, discharges from the vagina, dysuria, ischuria, enuresis, diabetes, catarrh of the bladder, hematuria, stricture of the urethra, nephralgia, gravel, stricture of the



intestines, blind and flowing hemorrhoids, fistula in ano, difficult stools, constipation, chronic diarrhœa, induration of the liver, jaundice, blue disease, disease of the heart, beating of the heart, spasms of the chest, dropsy of the chest, miscarriage, sterility, metromania, impotence, induration of the testes, dwindling of the testes, prolapsus uteri, inversion of the womb, inguinal, femoral and umbilical hernia, dislocations from some internal cause, curvature of the spine, chronic inflammation of the eyes, fistula lachrymalis, short and long-sightedness, day and night-blindness; obscuration of the cornea, cataract, glaucoma, amaurosis, deafness, deficient smell or taste, chronic headache on one side, pain in the face, tinea capitis, scabs, crusta lactea, herpes, pimples, nettle-rash, lypoma, goitre, varix, aneurisms, erysipelas, adipose sarcoma, osteo-sarcoma, scirrhus, cancer of the lips, cheek, breast and womb; fungus hematodes, rheumatism, gout in the hips, in the joints and feet; apoplectic fits, spasms, convulsions, swoons, vertigo, paralysis, contractions, epilepsy, St. Vitus, dance, melancholy, insanity, imbecility, nervous affections, etc.

CASE FROM PRACTICE, BY C. D.  
WILLIAMS, M. D., & C. D. HASTINGS, M. D.

We publish with pleasure, the following case from our friend Dr. Williams of Cleveland, O.

Dr. W., was one of the early pioneers of Homœopathy in Western N. York, where the science was introduced by Doct. Bayard of this city, about the time it began to attract attention in this country, and with whom Dr. Williams was associated.

Dr. W. has ever since been a firm and zealous advocate of the new system, and his efforts to extend it have been marked with success. No where is our art more prosperous than in Western N. York, and we are glad to learn that the Dr. is achieving for it similar triumphs in the great State of Ohio.

The case affords a striking illustration of the curative power of drugs, having a specific relation to disease, and in attenuated doses. We think, as the Dr. discovered and remarks, that the cure would have been more prompt, had the remedies been given in higher attenuations.

"A son of Capt. J. Nickinson of this city, aged 6 years, while at school was discovered to be ill with symptoms resembling apoplexy, accompanied with paralysis of one side alternating with spasm of the other. The character of these spasms were *tetanic*. The pupils of the eyes were largely dilated at times, at

others, quickly contracting so as to be nearly closed. When free from general spasm, the limbs of both sides were in constant motion with sudden jerks resembling a series of electric shocks, which were instantly aggravated by touching the limbs with the hand. The patient all the time being wholly insensible to every thing around him. The number of spasmodic paroxysms in twenty four hours, were from twenty to twenty-five, and each one continuing from ten to twenty minutes, during which time it was not unusual for him to froth at the mouth. Dr. Matheritt an allopathic physician of this city, with Dr. Cushing as counsel, had the charge of this case, the first two days. The treatment was 1st. *an emetic*, 2d. *calomel*, 3d. *prussic acid*, "in doses as large as the child could possibly bear," and completed, with *ethers*, *antacids*, and *cold shower baths*. During this time and under this treatment as described to us by Dr. M., the patient continued to become steadily worse, and at this stage of the case, he was deemed incurable by his medical attendant, and abandoned to his fate. The parents and friends had likewise relinquished all hope of his recovery, and it was only through the natural proneness of "drowning men to catch at straws," that induced them to "try once more" to obtain relief for their child. We took the charge and direction of this case June 19th, 1846, at 10 o'clock, A. M., and administered *belladonna 3d.*, repeating it in one hour without any visible good results; allowed one hour more to pass by and administered *nux vom. 3d.*, and repeated it in two hours, after which the same remedy was repeated once in 4 hours, during the day and night.—20th, 7 o'clock, A. M.: visited the patient, and found he had been very restless through the night, with an improvement of the paralytic symptoms and less jerking of the limbs. Had some fever, and the general spasms had not been quite so frequent as during the preceding night; pupils more steadily contracted, and changes less frequent. The patient, however, manifested a new symptom, namely, a paroxysm of *fright* on awakening from apparent sleep. *Nux vom.* was now discontinued, and *belladonna 3d.*, dissolved in distilled water, substituted for it. This was followed in a few minutes by an aggravation of the symptoms of fright, and accompanied by incoherent talking about being thrown into the river, and begging to be taken out. *Chamomilla 3d.* was given, in attenuation, with *belladonna*, during the day. We saw this case

again in the evening; the above symptoms had nearly abated, without improving the paralysis and jerking motions of the limbs. Had recourse to *nux vom.* again, through the night (discontinuing the *bell.* and *cham.*)—21st.: again visited the patient in the morning. He had a very comfortable night, slept quietly, and was easily roused; and, when awake, in full possession of his senses. Paralysis, jerking of the limbs, and all the apoplectic symptoms had disappeared. He called for drink and food, which were allowed in moderate quantities. The case was allowed to go on, under the action of the last named medicine, for the fore part of the day. At one o'clock, the paroxysm of fright occurred again, and was speedily relieved by *belladonna* 12th.—22d.: the boy slept well last night, awoke this morning refreshed, with no other symptoms except those of general debility. Appetite again returned, and was carefully gratified. His bowels soon became regular, and in a few days more required no more medical attendance from us, and was discharged cured.

This case has some interest.

1. The disease was not an imaginary one, as must be inferred from the character of the symptoms and the age of the patient.

2. The cure could not be attributed to diet or nature: the case was acute and alarming, and so must have thought the allopathic physicians in attendance, who deemed it incurable, and voluntarily abandoned it.

3. There was evidence of the action of *belladonna*, as a new symptom was developed after its administration, viz., *fright*, which is peculiar to the action of this drug on the system.

4. There was an over action in the case, from the 3d. of *belladonna*, which was completely relieved by a higher potency of the same remedy.

5. Prussic acid was administered in this case in allopathic doses. Prussic acid has a specific relation in its effects to this disease.

6. If the 3d. *att.* of *belladonna* was poisonous in its effects, what must have been the action of prussic acid, in crude doses, upon that suffering child?

7. *Nux vomica* and *belladonna* are antidotes to prussic acid, upon the principle of *similia similibus curantur*.

8. Upon this great scientific principle the child was cured.

9. If this law had not been so applied, the child must have died with disease of the brain,

urged to its dangerous tendencies by strong doses of a drug producing similar disease.\*

10. The facts in this case show, that the 12th potency of the remedies used would have resulted in a more prompt and easy cure than the 3d, since the aggravations, which were in fact unnecessary, could have been avoided.

And lastly, the history of this case demonstrates the necessity of an exact knowledge of the action of drugs, when dealing with disease."

Cleveland, O., Dec. 16, 1846.

## DISEASES OF CHILDREN, DENTITION.

The many affections of the skin to which children are subject, are especially developed at the period of teething. These, with other affections, are by the older writers considered to owe their origin to this cause (teething), and have been denominated "*diseases of dentition*." Children, long before the period of teething, as well as subsequent to it, are subject to various eruptions of the skin; to excoriations, sore eyes, sore mouth, &c. Were teething the primary cause of these affections, they should occur at no other period, and all children should suffer from them, which is not the case. They must therefore be dependent upon some other cause inherent in the system, of which these affections, occurring at this period, are evidence.

Infants are often born with some eruption upon the skin, and it is not uncommon for these to make their appearance in the first few days or weeks after birth, and before they could have been contracted from any infection; hence, they must have their origin in a constitutional taint. Some of these affections are acknowledged to be hereditary, while there are those known to be contagious.

It is observed that children, subject to eruptions upon the skin, also suffer from other derangements, and that the sudden disappearance of these eruptions is frequently followed by internal disturbances of some sort; and it is becoming to be more generally believed by the profession that they are not independent local diseases, but as being connected with internal

\* See Christison on Poisons, article Prussic Acid, also Dunghinson's New Remedies, from page 5th to 7th; and same authors on *Nux vomica* and *Belladonna*.



morbid conditions and constitutional causes; and that although the existence of the connection of some of these affections with peculiar conditions of the system, or states of the constitution, may not be apparent, yet it is to be inferred; while there are many diseases, as the exanthemata, which at certain periods of their course are developed upon the skin, and some that are contagious, as syphilis, psora, &c.

Many of these diseases, not the result of a special miasm or infection, as salt rheum, tetters, &c., are acknowledged to be hereditary. Such are those which appear spontaneously, and which are neither epidemic nor contagious. Of these generally it is our present purpose to speak.

"It would be a grave error to separate certain cutaneous eruptions from lesions of other systems when both derive their origin from the same cause: to attempt to isolate the venereal eruptions, for example, from the other symptoms of syphilitic infection—exostoses, periostoses, nocturnal pains in the bones and joints, &c.—would evidently be arbitrarily to disconnect the different orders of symptoms of one and the same disease.

"Certain diseases, such as the *eruptive fevers*, produced by infection of the whole system, although they indeed exhibit themselves on the exterior of the body at determinate periods in peculiar and characteristic symptoms, are, to all intents and purposes, *general diseases*, the effects of which are occasionally felt with far greater violence by other systems than by the skin. In some cases, indeed, in variola, rubeola, scarlatina, &c., no eruption ever makes its appearance, and the skin then continues entirely a stranger to the effects of the contagion.

"If in the eruptive fevers and the syphilides, the evidence of a general constitutional affection appear in a multitude of phenomena, the connection of several other alterations of the skin with a particular state of the constitution is no less evident; it is very striking in scrofulous tubercles and ulcers, which are always preceded or accompanied with other symptoms of a strumous nature.

"Besides these cases of general affection, and of original or hereditary disposition of the constitution, which are transmitted to the skin, or manifest themselves there in shape of eruptions of divers forms, the principal phenomena of several morbid states of the system at large, and of certain derangements of important organs, are peculiar affections of the skin.

Erysipelas is occasionally seen supervening periodically, every month, or every two months, at the usual menstrual periods, when the catamenia fail or are deficient in quantity; strophulous is one of the most usual morbid phenomena at the time of teething; urticaria and lichen *urticatus* frequently succeed derangement of the digestive functions, &c.

"The more we study the development and tendency of the greater number of the diseases of the skin, which invade independently of any outward appreciable cause, the more we become convinced of their connection with the state of the constitution, and of the necessity there is for considering them under this point of view before we think of undertaking their cure, or even of interfering with them so as to modify their progress."—*Rayer on the Diseases of the Skin*.

## DIFFICULTY OF INTRODUCING NEW SYSTEMS OR SCIENCES.

(Continued.)

In a former number we attempted to illustrate this difficulty, and as it is a matter of great moment in connection with our system, tending to show why all the world are not at once converted to our opinion, we think it desirable of continued remarks.

This difficulty is very obvious when a science is fully developed. As the development of a science, and not the discussion of its principles is all with which we can hope to persuade the popular mind. The public must in some way have access to such developments, in order to be persuaded or benefitted by them. This is a matter of no small inconvenience in the infancy of our practice, and more especially when that practice is the butt and bye-word of the ignorant and prejudiced. These very prejudices prevent them from being reasonable spectators of the cures exhibited in our practice. In addition to this, prejudice is so headstrong that in many instances when individuals are cured of severe and obstinate diseases, conviction of the availableness of Homœopathic remedies, scarcely extends beyond the persons themselves. While *they* know they were sick and in pain, *others* conceive their ailments to have been imaginary, or to have been spontaneously relieved by the hand of nature. This is a state of things against which provision cannot be made, and a patient accumulation of facts and evidence is neces-

sary to effect that which even a superficial observation, if not embarrassed with determined incredulity ought at once to accomplish.

Then we find a difficulty in proposing principles which are opposed to the interests of so large and respectable a proportion of the community.

In this city there are near 800 members of the allopathic school, many of extensive and rich practice, most of them gaining a competency, and some fame and fortune in their professional pursuits. Their opinion *appears to be* that should our science become universal, large sources of fame and profit would be cut off, and hence a reluctance even to examine that which there interest condemns. As no man likes to give a certainty for an uncertainty, so those gentlemen, not knowing, nor having means to know, what might be the effect of the abandonment of their system, and the adoption of Homœopathy, they retain that which has been long cherished, and which it becomes us in charity to believe *they consider* useful and indispensable to the well being of the world. We do not denounce the sincerity of their motives, but we do not insist that a strict investigation of our principles, would result in a revolutionary practice on their part, far more beneficial to the world, which no man's interest should for a moment arrest. Yet this is a difficulty of towering magnitude—make it the interest of men, and they will do any thing. Interest sways thousands of votes in the political world, some perhaps almost unconsciously—interest regulates all the commercial operations of the world—interest governs the diplomacy of nations, and should we wonder that an army of dependent and ambitious doctors could lay aside so powerful a consideration, and voluntarily submit themselves to what they consider comparative disrepute and poverty. Are we not to suppose it to be therefore a very rational result that our allopathic friends, themselves not having investigated our system, endeavor at least to infuse the spirit of their own opposition into the bosoms of those from whom they derive their support. We do not offer these remarks to impugn the profession. Our only object is to expose some of the obstacles to be overcome in the advancement and diffusion of what we esteem true principles in medicine.

Nor can we hope to secure a comparatively large number of youthful practitioners in our school, as interest and pride will incline them otherwise. And as few professional men are able to expend fortunes in waiting for practice,

and as the great majority require influence to introduce them to the public, we must expect that the majority of practitioners will devote themselves to that school from which they can derive the most influence and support. Hence it is reasonable to expect for a time the opposition of the entire allopathic school, their institution and students, as well as that of druggists, patent medicine manufacturers and vendors, and all whose interests are identified with the drugging system.

#### HAHNEMANN ON COFFEE.

Thus much at least is certain—the most refined man of the world, the most accomplished prodigal of life, from one end of the globe to the other, can discover no medical article of diet but coffee which is capable of converting our usual sensations for some hours into purely pleasing ones; of producing in us, for some hours a more jovial, nay even petulant mirth, a more lively wit, a brilliant fancy which goes beyond our temperament—of accelerating the motion of our muscles till they tremble, and of doubling in speed the regular quiet course of our organs of digestion and evacuation; of keeping the sexual appetite in an almost involuntary excitement, of stilling the beneficent pain of hunger and thirst, of driving refreshing sleep from the weary limbs, and of feigning a species of wakefulness at a time when the whole created world of our hemisphere is enjoying its appointed destiny, refreshing rest, in the still bosom of night.

In this way we master the wise laws of our nature, *but not without injury*.

After some hours, when the first transitory effect of coffee has disappeared, the opposite condition, its *final effect*, follows. The more striking the first was, the more remarkable and the more unpleasant is the latter.

It is true that every man does not experience the same degree of injury from the misuse of a medicinal beverage like coffee.

Our bodies are so admirably framed that provided only we follow a natural way of living in other respects, some faults in our diet, if not too gross, are tolerably harmless.

Thus, for instance, the German day-laborer and peasant drinks every morning brandy, so hurtful in itself; but takes it only in small quantities, and yet, often attains a good age. His health suffers little. His good natural constitution and the healthiness of his mode of



life in other respects, overcome the injurious effects of this beverage, without his suspecting it.

And if the head of a peasant's or laborer's family drink a couple of cups of weak coffee daily, the same result follows. His robust frame, the laborious exercise of his limbs, and the fill of fresh air which he enjoys daily, dispel the injurious effects of this beverage, and his health suffers little or nothing in consequence of it.

But where these favorable circumstances do not assist, the injurious effects of coffee are observable in a far greater degree.

An individual who is engaged wholly within doors, or even in one apartment, and even if he possess a weak frame, may still enjoy a species of health, provided he lives agreeably to his situation in other respects. The female sex, through moderate indulgence in easily digestible, mild, simple and purely nutritive food and drinks, with very little condiment, through wise government of the passions, and frequent renewals of the air of the apartments occupied, even without active bodily exercise can enjoy that which, though easily disturbed by external causes, may still, when these are avoided, be called a moderate degree of health. On such individuals, the effects of all noxious substances, that is, of all drugs, is far stronger and more striking, than in robust persons accustomed to labor in the open air who can bear very injurious things without particular injury.

These frail, sedentary livers live, so to speak, in the low grade of their health, only half a life; all their sensations, their activity, their bodily constitution, are somewhat weaker, and they grasp eagerly at a beverage, which, for some hours, so powerfully exalts their vital activity, and the sense of their existence;—careless as to the consequences, the secondary effects of this palliative.

These secondary effects resemble their condition before partaking of the coffee, only rather more marked.

When the short period of the above described first operation of this beverage, the feeling of exalted, artificial, vital activity is over, a yawning sleepiness gradually creeps over us, and a greater inactivity than usual; bodily motion becomes more difficult than before, and the excessive gaiety of the preceding hours changes into dullness.

If, during the few hours which succeeded

the drinking of coffee, the digestion and the voiding of the excrements was artificially hastened, how, on the other hand, flatulencies fill the intestines painfully, and the voiding of the excrements is slower and more difficult than in the previous state. If coffee filled the individual at first with a genial warmth, now this artificial spark of life gradually disappears, he becomes chilly, and the hands and feet grow cold. All external objects are less agreeable to him than before. Worse humored than usual, he is more easily excited to anger. His sexual appetite, which was at first excited by coffee, is now so much the colder and more deadened. A sort of easily pacified gnawing hunger takes the place of the healthy desire for food, and yet eating and drinking oppress the stomach and head still more. He has more trouble to gain sleep than previously, and his sleep is duller than when he was acquainted with coffee, and on awaking he is more sleepy, ill-humored, and melancholy than usual.

But the renewed enjoyment of this injurious palliative banishes all the complaints—a new, artificial life appears—for a shorter period however than the first time. And in this way, a repetition of coffee becomes still oftener necessary; or the beverage must be made stronger if it is to have the effect of stimulating life again for some hours.

Hence the frame of the sedentary liver becomes still more enervated. The injury produced by the final effects of this beverage spread too wide, take root too deeply, to be removed even by a more frequent repetition of the palliative, or by stronger doses.

The skin generally becomes still more sensitive to cold, and even to not cold, but fresh air; digestion is more difficult, the bowels are for several days, torpid: flatulencies communicate anxiety throughout the frame, and produce a variety of painful feelings. Constipation is succeeded by diarrhœa, not by natural evacuations; sleep ensues only painfully, and rather resembles a slumber which affords no refreshment. On awaking we are struck with dullness of the head, torpor of the imagination, slowness of recollection, helplessness of the limbs, and a joylessness which makes God's lovely creation dark and comfortless to the eye. The benevolent emotions of the heart, warm philanthropy, gratitude, sympathy, heroism, strength, and nobleness of soul, and cheerfulness are transformed into timidity,

indifference, unfeeling hardness of heart, fickleness and fretfulness.

The individual continues to drink coffee, and nervous sensibility alternates with want of feeling, over hasty decision with irresolution, boisterous anger with cowardly submission, loving grimaces with envious malice, and grinning laughter with tearfulness—proofs of the continual vibration between irritability and relaxation of mind and body,

It would be difficult for me to point out all the mischiefs which prevail among the votaries of coffee, (under the name sometimes of weaknesses, sometimes of nervous disorders and chronic diseases,) which unnerve man, and make him degenerate mentally and corporally.

But it must not be supposed that all these mischiefs occur in the same degree to every coffee-drinker. No;—one suffers more from one, another from another symptom of its final effects. My picture embraces the whole race of coffee-drinkers. I shall now range in order together all their sufferings, from their source as they gradually came to my knowledge.

The palliative pleasurable feeling which coffee disseminated through the finest fibres for a time, leaves behind, as its re-action, a remarkable susceptibility to painful feelings, and that is the more acute, the longer, the oftener, and the stronger it is drunk. Even minute causes, which make scarcely the smallest impression in a healthy person not accustomed to coffee, produce in the votaries of coffee, headache, a frequent, often intolerable toothache, especially at night, with redness of the face, and finally swelling of the jaw—drawing and lacerating pains in different parts of the body, on one side of the face, or now in one, now in another limb. The body is especially predisposed to erysipelas of the lower part of the leg, (whence often old ulcers of the feet,) or, when nursing, on the breasts, or of one side of the face. Melancholy and hectic heat are daily complaints; and a headache affecting one side of the head is peculiar to coffee drinkers.

When moderate errors in diet, or unpleasant passions occur, painful complaints arise in the breast, stomach and abdomen, (improperly called cramps,) the menses do not take place without pain, observe no regular order, or less blood passes, and finally none at all, it has a watery or mucous appearance; flour albus, generally irritating, occupies nearly the whole time from one menstrual period to the other, or

takes their place; sexual intercourse is often painful. The earthen yellow, or at least, pale complexion, the dull eye, surrounded by blue circles, the blue lips, the soft flesh, the faded flaccid breasts, are external symptoms of this miserable state.

(To be Continued.)

We occasionally receive complaints from subscribers, of the non-reception of the Journal. We can only say that it is always published on or before the day on which it is dated. It is put up for the mail under our own eye, and sent by our own directions to the Post Office, or left at places as directed, by some of our own agents, and the fault lies not with us in any respect.

New York, January 6, 1847.

DR. KIRBY,

Dear Sir,—Dr. Pantillon, Hom. Physician in Philadelphia, takes the pleasure to send you a sample of the Homœopathic Coffee, invented by him, that you may be so kind as to recommend it in your next number of the American Journal, if you find it good. It is made of one of the most healthsome roots, and contains not a particle of Coffee.

Most respectfully,

W. RADDE.

We have not yet tried the above preparation. It is for sale by Messrs. Radde, Rademacher, and Otis Clapp.

We have received the January number of the WATER CURE JOURNAL—edited by our friends, Joel Shew, M. D., and F. D. Peirson, M. D.—It contains many valuable articles on the laws and means of health which are calculated to do much good. The judicious use of water we regard often beneficial, always quite as efficient and infinitely safer than the bleeding and drugging system. The Journal is enlarged and improved in appearance and has, we believe, a large circulation.

#### ANONYMOUS WRITERS.

We have long been of the opinion, that the publication of *anonymous* communications in medical journals, is an evil of sufficient magnitude that calls for the attention of editors. Scarcely an article of this kind appears, but the prominent object is, some offensive personalities, which detract from the dignity of the profession, and oppose obstacles to the advancement of truth.



We have sent the Journal to the subscribers of the *Pioneer*, and to some individuals at the request of friends—many of whom have signified their desire to become subscribers, by remitting to us a dollar. Will others who thus receive it, oblige us by signifying their wishes in regard to its continuance.

Our Subscribers in Philadelphia, will hereafter receive the Journal through Mr. Rademacher.

Our correspondent "F." is informed that in the course of the articles on Health and Disease, he will find, we think, his question satisfactorily answered. In the meantime we will say that the symptoms in the article referred to, do not indicate the disease to which he alludes.

Wm. Radde has purchased of the subscriber his interest in the publication of Jahr's New Manual—the Symptomen Codex.

CHAS. G. DEAN.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

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**GENERAL AGENCY** of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jahr's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. I.

New York, Saturday, January 23, 1847.

NO. 19.

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DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

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DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 1847.

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## PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

It is doubted if the ORGANON of *homœopathic medicine* by S. Hahnemann has been studied but by few of the medical profession. We can scarcely believe it possible for a well informed physician to carefully analyze the doc-

trines advocated in that work, and not be convinced that they are true. Most of it is so truth-like, that it would require a large measure of prejudice to prevent a favorable impression even after a cursory reading.

It is a fact, that although his system of medicine has engaged the attention of many opponents both in Europe and in this country, not one has ever attempted a logical investigation of it; but in almost every instance, misrepresentation and ridicule have been the weapons employed to kill it. But these have failed in their object, as any one of moderate foresight could have foretold, and this system has the confidence of hundreds of the really *educated* members of the profession; and others of this class are diligently studying it for the purpose of practice.

In the course of these articles we propose to introduce, some of the more prominent portions of the ORGANON, that those of our readers who do not possess it, may be enabled to form a judgment of a system, which the most careful experiments have established in almost every part of the civilized world.

It is a source of misunderstanding among medical men, that some are governed strictly by what may be found in what is termed standard works; while others are controlled by what actually takes place in practice; and because of this, the writings of Hahnemann produce an impression upon one class of readers, which differs essentially from that upon another class. He whose mind is full of the speculations found in the literature of medicine, will hardly agree to the doctrines promulgated in the ORGANON; but he who looks to the cure of the sick—who is a practical man—who wants knowledge that he can use, will feel their force, and acknowledge their truth.

We shall conclude this article by an extract from the ORGANON with a few remarks:

"The unprejudiced observer, (however



great may be his powers of penetration,) aware of the futility of all elaborate speculations that are not confirmed by experience, perceives in each individual affection nothing, but changes of the state of the body and mind, (*traces of disease, casualities, symptoms,*) that are discoverable by the senses alone,—that is to say, deviations from the former sound state of health, which are felt by the patient himself, remarked by the individuals around him, and observed by the physician. The *ensemble* of these available signs represents, in its full extent, the disease itself—that is, they constitute the true and only form of it which the mind is capable of conceiving.

“I cannot, therefore, comprehend how it was possible for physicians, without heeding the symptoms or taking them as a guide in the treatment, to imagine that they ought to search the interior of the human economy (which is inaccessible and concealed from our view), and that they could there alone discover that which was to be cured in disease. I cannot conceive how they could entertain so ridiculous a pretension as that of being able to discover the internal invisible change that had taken place, and restore the same to the order of its normal condition by the aid of medicines, without ever troubling themselves very much about the symptoms, and that they should have regarded such a method as the only means of performing a radical and rational cure. Is not that which manifests itself in disease, by symptoms, identified with the change itself which has taken place in the human economy, and which it is impossible to discover without their aid? Do not the symptoms of disease, which are sensibly cognizable, represent to the physician the disease itself? When he can neither see the spiritual essence, the vital power which produces the disease, nor yet the disease itself, but simply perceive and learn its morbid effects, that he may be able to treat it accordingly? What would the old school search out farther from the hidden interior for a *prima causa morbi*, whilst they reject and superciliously despise the palpable and intelligible representation of the disease, the symptoms which clearly announce themselves to us as the object of cure? What is there besides these in disease which they have to cure?

“As in a disease where no manifest or exciting cause presents itself for removal, (*causa occasionalis*) we can perceive nothing but the symptoms, then must these symptoms alone (with due attention to the accessory circumstances, and the possibility of the existence of a miasm) guide the physician in the choice of a fit remedy to combat the disease. The totality of the symptoms, *this image of the immediate essence of the malady reflected externally*, ought to be the principal or sole object by which the latter could make known the medicines it stands in need of—the only agent to determine the choice of a remedy that would be most appropriate. In short, the *ensemble* of the symptoms is the principal and sole object that a physician ought to have in view in every case of disease—the power of his art

is to be directed against that alone in order to cure and transform it into health.

“It is taken for granted that every intelligent physician will commence by removing this *causa occasionalis*; then the indisposition usually yields of itself. Thus it is necessary to remove flowers from the room when their odours occasions paroxysms of fainting and hysteria, to extract from the eye the foreign substance which occasions ophthalmia; remove the tight bandages from a wounded limb which threatens gangrene, and apply others more suitable; lay bare and tie up a wounded artery where hemorrhage produces fainting; evacuate the berries of belladonna, &c. which may have been swallowed, by vomiting; extract the foreign particles which have introduced themselves into the openings of the body, (the nose, pharynx, ears, urethra, rectum, vagina); grind down a stone in the bladder; open the imperforate anus of the new born infant, &c.

“Not knowing at times what plan to adopt in disease, physicians have endeavored to suppress or annihilate some one of the various symptoms which appeared. This method which is known by the name of the *symptomatic*, has very justly excited universal contempt, not only because no advantage is derived from it, but because it gives rise to many bad consequences. A single existing symptom is no more the disease itself, than a single leg constitutes the entire of the human body. This method is so much the more hurtful in its effects, that in attacking an isolated symptom, they make use solely of an opposite remedy, (that is to say, of antipathics or palliatives,) so that after an amendment of short duration the evil bursts forth again worse than before.

“It is not possible to conceive or prove by any experience, after the cure of the whole of the symptoms of a disease, together with all its perceptible changes, that there remains or possibly can remain any other than a healthy state, or that the morbid alteration which has taken place in the interior of the economy has not been annihilated.

“In one who has thus been restored from sickness by a genuine physician, so that no trace of disease, no morbid symptom any longer remains and every token of health has again durably returned, can it for a moment be supposed, without offering an insult to common sense, that the entire corporeal disease still resides in such an individual? and yet Hufeland, at the head of the old school, makes this identical assertion (in his work on Homœopathy, p. 27, 1. 19) in the following words viz. ‘The homœopathist may remove the symptoms, but the disease will still remain.’ He affirms this partly out of mortification at the progress and salutary effects of homœopathy, and partly because he entertains wholly *material* ideas of disease, which he is unable to regard as an immaterial change in the organism, produced by the morbid derangement of the vital power; he does not consider it as a changed condition of the organism, but as a *material something*, which, after the cure is completed, may yet continue to lurk in some internal corner of the body, in order one day

or other, at pleasure, and during a period of blooming health, once more to burst forth with its material presence ! So shocking is still the delusion of the old pathology ! That such a one only could produce a *therapeutica*, solely intent upon cleansing out the poor patient, is not surprising."

No one, so it seems to us, can but admit 1st, that all speculations which are not confirmed by experience can be of any value.

2. That diseases are "changes of the state of the body and mind, which are felt by the patient himself, remarked by those around him, and observed by the physician."

3. That the *ensemble* of all the symptoms in a case of sickness represent the disease itself, and they constitute all of it which the mind is capable of conceiving.

4. That the treatment of a disease, should be commenced by removing the *causa occasionalis* if known.

It will not be easy to deny these propositions; we shall assume that they are true, and about which there is no dispute; indeed, we do not perceive how any can happen, for they recognize every conceived derangement of body and mind.

The next point however is a very different thing: it is, that the *ensemble* or the totality of the symptoms, &c. should make known the appropriate medicines. In this, the practice of the old school, (allopathy) and that of the new (homœopathy) are at variance. They look at one another from opposite points. There is no resemblance whatever, and there can be no meeting half way—there cannot be a mingling. Here, homœopathy stands out boldly, and it is one of its strong holds, to yield which in any measure would destroy it. *The whole of the symptoms taken together, is the image of the malady reflected externally, which must indicate the remedy.*

The old school with all her boastings has no means of obeying this rule. Let the most learned, and the best educated in allopathy (who have not seen the *materia medica pura*) attempt it, and they could not move one step. We defy the whole allopathic school to make an individual case of disease indicate the appropriate medicine, by the *materia medica* of that school, and effect a prompt and a permanent cure. Take tooth ache, for which a well educated homœopathic physician would select, (being guided by the peculiarities of the case) the medicine, a single dose of which would cure it in less than five minutes; and which

the old school has not an idea of curing but with extraction.

Take *neuralgias*, and of some fifty medicines the experienced homœopath will cause the individual case to make known the remedy, which may effect a permanent cure in a few hours; this we have witnessed in several instances after the most extended allopathic treatment for months without relief.

(To be Continued.)

## OBJECTIONS TO HOMŒOPATHY.

(Continued.)

*Many persons have been treated by Homœopathy and have not been cured.*

This is one of the most common objections brought forward against homœopathy, and one which seldom fails of leaving some unfavorable impression on the minds of the unreflecting portion of the public with regard to that science. We shall therefore shortly sift its real value.

It is clear that there never will nor even can be a medical system which will cure all diseases without exception, and if one with such pretensions were ever brought forward, it would deserve to be stigmatized as quackery. Homœopathy has no such pretensions, and all it claims is being a system of practical medicine, based upon a law of nature, insuring by fixed principles and rules, clearness and simplicity in the treatment of diseases, and being thus enabled to arrive at results to which those conditions can and must necessarily lead.

We shall now shortly consider the several reasons which may induce the failure of homœopathic treatment, and leave it to the reader himself to judge how far such an objection can be fairly brought forward against the doctrine of homœopathy as such. The principal causes which may induce failures of homœopathic treatment may arise—1st. From the disease. 2nd, From the patient. 3rd, From the practitioner.

I. We have already pointed out the principal causes which may lead to failures in acute diseases: the following may be marked as the principal causes of occasional failure in chronic cases:

a. There are diseases in which the structure of certain organs is so materially altered that medicine, at least in the present state of the science, cannot effect a radical cure. Such cases are, for instance, far advanced cancer of the breast, uterus and stomach; extensive tubercular consumption; paralysis arising from organ-



ic changes in the brain or spinal marrow; disorganization of the liver; several forms of far advanced scrofula, &c.

b. Vital power may be so much reduced in the frame in general, or in the organ prominently affected, that a proper reaction to the medicine cannot take place, as in some cases of paralysis of the limbs, of amaurosis, &c.

c. Failures may occur in chronic diseases of a purely hereditary character which often amount almost to second nature, and are at all times infinitely more difficult to eradicate than diseases arising from other causes.

d. Failures may occur in diseases which are owing entirely, or in a great measure, to former misuse of medicine. We advert under this head to the multifarious and complicated artificial complaints produced by aperient and anti-bilious medicines, some of which have already been mentioned. The effects of these medicines, when they have assumed a chronic form, are exceedingly difficult to eradicate. With regard to the chronic effects arising from a long course of so-called alterative medicines, such as mercury in its various shapes, iodine, sulphur, iron, arsenic, nitrate of silver, &c., we hold it in many cases to be next to impossible to produce any lasting beneficial amelioration, even by the best conducted treatment. This kind of diseases, which are numerous, forms perhaps the most important item among the cases of failure of homœopathic treatment.

The cause of failure may lie with the patient himself or with those about him. To mention only one point, in acute cases the physician is frequently disobeyed with regard to giving food inasmuch as the patient or those about him, think it necessary to try to "keep up the system" by giving food when a total want of appetite or prostration of the powers of digestion require the greatest caution. In these cases the best efforts of the physician are frequently frustrated by well-meaning but injudicious relatives and nurses. In chronic cases, failures may be produced by the patient not adhering to a proper regimen. Some patients promise to give up tea, coffee, wine, spirits, when it is thought necessary by the physician, to take a regular exercise in the open air, to abandon injurious and dissipated habits, &c. but do not fulfil their promise, and when they then fail to be cured, they blame homœopathy and not themselves. Another very frequent cause of failure in chronic disease arises *from sufficient time not being given to effect a cure*. Frequently patients who have heard of some extraordinary

cure and are themselves suffering from long standing complicated complaints, apply to homœopathy, and expect a speedy and complete cure in the space of a few weeks. They must necessarily be disappointed! Common sense suggests, and ordinary experience confirms it, that a disorder which has gradually established itself, in the course of years, and which frequently has been rendered artificially complicated by former medical treatment, cannot be eradicated but by slow gradation, and that a quick amelioration in these cases is not even desirable, inasmuch as these sudden good effects in chronic disease seldom last, on the contrary, impede a radical cure. Long experience attests that, on an average, a chronic disease of some standing cannot be properly cured in less than six months and more, and Hahnemann himself says:

"The cure of severe chronic disorders which have lasted for ten, twenty, thirty years and longer, may be called expeditious, if it be performed in one or two years; if it may succeed with young robust persons in half that time it requires with aged persons even more, notwithstanding the best treatment and strictest obedience of the patient. Every one may understand that an inveterate disease, the miasmatic cause of which has had so much time and so many occasions during a long life of spreading its parasitic roots through the whole system, becomes at length so closely interwoven with the organism, that besides a proper treatment and a strict obedience of the invalid, patience and time are equally indispensable to destroy this dynamical polypus with its many branches." Therefore, persons who apply to Homœopathy for the cure of chronic complaints, and will not give sufficient time to complete the cure, must blame themselves and not homœopathy if their expectations are disappointed. Another very powerful impediment to the complete success of medical treatment of chronic cases are constant disagreeable emotions of the mind arising from vexation, domestic unhappiness, grief, angry disposition, &c. As long as such causes exist to a considerable degree, the patient has indeed little chance of being cured of his chronic disorder.

*Failures may be owing to imperfect Homœopathic treatment.*

A practical science may have attained a high degree of perfection, but in order to lead to such results as it is capable of producing, it is, of course, an indispensable condition that it

should be applied by persons of skill who are thoroughly acquainted with it. Homœopathy is exceedingly simple in its theory, because it is true; but that its proper application in diseases is one of the most difficult tasks which any man can undertake, is a point upon which all homœopathic physicians who have practiced it for any length of time, are unanimous. Like many other practical discoveries of great importance, Homœopathy has everywhere become the subject of speculation, and many persons have adopted it merely on these grounds. Without having either the means or the inclination to study the science thoroughly, they practice it upon such easy and meagre resources as some Domestic Medicine or Jahr's Manual. Homœopathy is so true, that even imperfectly informed persons cannot fail of being frequently successful, and therefore, their numerous failures are ascribed to the science itself, and are not attributed, as they ought to be, to the want of skill and information of the practitioner. The allopathic periodical press frequently attacks homœopathy with regard to cases which have failed in consequence of improper treatment, or in which the homœopathic practitioner has held out hopes which no medical art could realize. It is, however, not fair that the system of homœopathy should be charged with imperfections which arise solely from the practitioner, and it is by this time necessary to warn the public, that it is not every one who calls himself a homœopathic physician is therefore able to practice it properly, and we direct their attention to the following points:—

1. The correct practice of Hahnemann requires, besides a proper acquaintance with the different branches of medicine in its ordinary state, a long and severe study of the fundamental works of the doctrine itself.

The main difficulty in the practice of homœopathy lies in the acquisition of an intimate knowledge of its *Materia Medica*. If homœopathy fails with practitioners who have nothing but imperfect resources to rely upon, no one can be surprised; but even with the best resources at his disposal it is indispensable that the practitioner should go through a severe positive study in order to be enabled to practice homœopathy properly. He who dreads mental application ought to keep away from the practice of Homœopathy altogether.

No one who is convinced of the truth and the practical advantages of homœopathy, can conscientiously practice allopathy and homœo-

pathy indiscriminately; he who does so, or who even leaves it to his patients to choose between the two methods, deserves no confidence, and no one ought to be surprised at failures occurring in his hands.

The homœopathic physician ought to examine every case of disease patiently and minutely, and particularly in chronic disorders, keep a written minute of the whole case. Slight symptoms and other minor circumstances may essentially influence the choice of the remedy, and no person's memory, particularly in an extensive practice, could, in the course of a long treatment, retain them all. He who shuns that laborious task deserves no confidence, and his failures ought not to be attributed to the science.

Nor should a careful practitioner be in a great hurry in selecting his remedies in complicated chronic cases. No memory could retain all the symptoms which the numerous medicines of the homœopathic *materia medica* produce; minor effects are often of vital importance, and therefore a patient research in the respective books cannot be dispensed with. Hahnemann himself, after fifty years' experience, gave in his practice the best proof of the necessity of doing so.

The homœopathic practitioner ought to study the practice of homœopathy under the guidance of other practitioners who have already followed it for a considerable time; for there are in homœopathy, as in all practical sciences, many important points connected with its application which are not and cannot be explained in books.

There are every where numerous patients who have tried other medical treatment without beneficial results, and the homœopath is, therefore, almost sure to have an extensive practice wherever he goes. Homœopathy, as has already been stated, is so true that even a superficially informed practitioner cannot help being frequently successful in his treatment; and, therefore, mere outward success in practice affords no more than in allopathy a direct proof of the practitioner being thoroughly acquainted with the science.

One important point ought not to be lost sight of in judging the failures under homœopathic treatment—namely, that a physician may be an allopathic practitioner of high standing, and yet become only a very indifferent homœopath. The practice of both doctrines is so diametrically different, that unless a person who has been engaged for many years in allopathic



practice, lays aside almost totally his former maxims, his homœopathic treatment of diseases cannot lead to those results which Homœopathy, as such, is capable of producing. We regret to say that it is too often the case.

All these several points ought to be taken into consideration when failures under homœopathic treatment are brought forward as an objection against the system. "In truth, however, the question is not whether homœopathy ever *fails*, but whether or not it succeeds in cases where the old practice always fails, and whether in cases where the latter only *palliates* at a great expense to the constitution, it does not *cure* promptly and effectually without the slightest injury to the organism. On the comparative success of the two systems Homœopathy founds its claims to public support, and confidently challenges public inquiry. If indeed occasional failures should be the standard whereby to estimate the value of a system of medicine, in what position would the old school stand at the present moment?" — *Concise View, &c.*

#### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

Chronic diseases are produced by infection from some miasm.

This is evident, from what we know of the origin and causes of other diseases. Small-pox, scarlet, typhus, intermitting fevers, cholera, &c., are known to arise from epidemic or contagious miasms.

It is apparent from the writings of medical men in all ages, in which it is spoken of as predisposition, hereditary taint, diathesis, &c.

Hahnemann spent many years in study and research, to trace out the source of the incredible number of chronic affections.

And from long-continued observations and an immense accumulation and careful comparison of facts, he was enabled to discover the cause of the greater number of these affections. This (miasm) he denominated *psora*—which he regarded as the parent of the majority of chronic diseases.

Whatever may be thought of Hahnemann's views of this miasm, we think the general doctrine of the miasmatic origin of disease cannot be questioned, and if he has failed to trace the innumerable chronic diseases to their true source, *it only remains to be done*; while it must be admitted that the facts he adduces to demonstrate this, as being the origin of very

many of these diseases are not easily to be explained away.

Names are often much in the way of an accurate investigation of diseases and their causes, as the opposition to Hahnemann's views demonstrates.

The object of investigation should be a knowledge of the thing, irrespective of names. In the treatment of chronic diseases the cause is the ultimate object of primary remedial agents and names are of little importance to this end.

"This is the oldest, most universal and most pernicious chronic miasmatic disease, yet it has been misapprehended more than any other. For thousands of years it has disfigured and tortured mankind; and, during the last centuries, it has become the cause of those thousands of incredibly different, acute as well as chronic, non-venereal diseases, with which the civilized portion of mankind becomes more and more infected upon the whole inhabited globe.

"In the many thousands of years since it has visited mankind, the multitude of its morbid symptoms has increased to such an extent, that its secondary symptoms have become innumerable.

"The progress of this ancient miasm through the organism of millions of individuals in the course of some hundreds of generations, and the extraordinary degree of developement which it has by these means acquired, will explain to a certain extent, why it is able at present to make its appearance beneath so many different forms, especially if we contemplate the multiplicity of circumstances that usually contribute to the manifestation of this great diversity of chronic affections, (secondary symptoms,) besides the infinite variety of their individual constitution. It is, therefore, not surprising that such different organisms, penetrated by the psoric miasm, and exposed to so many hurtful influences, external and internal, which often act upon them in a permanent manner, should also present such an incalculable number of diseases, changes, and sufferings, as those which have, till the present time, been cited by the old pathology, so many distinct diseases, describing them by a number of particular names.

"Scrofula, rickets, spina ventosa, atrophy, marasmus, consumption, pulmonary consumption, asthma, tabes mucosa, laryngeal phthisis, chronic catarrh, constant cold in the head, difficult dentition, worms, and consequent diseases, dyspepsia, spasms in the abdomen, hypochondria, hysteria, anasarca, dropsy, ovarian dropsy, dropsy of the uterus, hydrocele, hydro-

cephalus, amenorrhœa and dismenorrhœa, hemorrhage from the uterus, hematemesis, hemoptysis, hemorrhages, discharges from the vagina, dysuria, ischuria, enuresis, diabetes, catarrh of the bladder, hematuria, stricture of the urethra, nephralgia, gravel, stricture of the intestines, blind and flowing hemorrhoids, fistula in ano, difficult stools, constipation, chronic diarrhœa, induration of the liver, jaundice, blue disease, disease of the heart, beating of the heart, spasms of the chest, dropsy of the chest, miscarriage, sterility, metromania, impotence, induration of the testes, dwindling of the testes, prolapsis uteri, inversion of the womb, inguinal, femoral and umbilical hernia, dislocations from some internal cause, curvature of the spine, chronic inflammation of the eyes, fistula lachrymalis, short and long-sightedness, day and night-blindness; obscuration of the cornea, cataract, glaucoma, amaurosis, deafness, deficient smell or taste, chronic headache on one side, pain in the face, tinea capitis, scabs, crusta lactea, herpes, pimples, nettle-rash, lypoma, goitre, varix, aneurisms, erysipelas, adipose sarcoma, osteo-sarcoma, scirrhous, cancer of the lips, cheek, breast and womb; fungus hematodes, rheumatism, gout in the hips, in the joints and feet; apoplectic fits, spasms, convulsions, swoons, vertigo, paralysis, contractions, epilepsy, St. Vitus dance, melancholy, insanity, imbecility, nervous affections, etc.

"Hitherto, syphilis, only was in some measure known as one of these chronic miasmatic diseases, which, being uncured, continued to the end of life." Sycosis, which likewise cannot be subdued by the vital power alone, has never been regarded as a distinct species of chronic diseases depending on an internal miasm; and it was supposed to be cured when the excrescences on the skin were destroyed, while no attention was paid to the source which still continued to exist.

"But a chronic miasm that is incomparably greater and far more important than either of the two last named, is that of psora. The two others disclose the specific internal affection whence they emanate—one by chancres, and the other excrescences in the form of a cauliflower.

It is not until the whole of the organism is infected, that psora declares its huge internal chronic miasm by a cutaneous eruption.

#### DISEASES OF CHILDREN, DENTITION.

Eruptions upon the skin having their origin in a constitutional cause, and being connected, as they are, with peculiar states of the system, the proper mode of treatment becomes a subject of great importance.

The treatment should be constitutional—its

object the removal of the disposition from the system, otherwise, it will be productive of other difficulties, and the cause will remain and become developed in some manner upon other and more important organs. Hence these eruptions should not be suppressed, or repelled. It is a law of the animal economy that it seeks to develop disease upon the surface, or upon parts remote from the vital organs. This is seen in diseases of the skin and external organs, in hemorrhoids (piles), in the eruptive fevers, as in small pox, measles, &c. Were the disturbing agent which is productive of these affections developed with the same amount of irritability upon the brain, heart, lungs, stomach, or any of the abdominal organs, we should have serious and (as constantly happens) fatal conditions—fatal disorganization of organs, the integrity of which is essential to life, would be the consequence, and thus the wisdom of nature, in determining the action of disturbing agents to the surface is made manifest, and should furnish a hint to the physician to second her efforts, and by proper and scientific means to assist her in effecting a cure upon those parts, an abnormal condition of which is not immediately hazardous to life.

The indication thus so clearly furnished should be heeded, and the many deplorable consequences of its neglect avoided.

The employment of quack nostrums, ointments, washes, &c., should be reprobated by the profession and avoided by parents, as they would shun the plague, or save their little ones from a sudden and fearful pestilence, or remove them from causes that are sure to poison their systems, undermine their constitutions, and lay the foundation for a train of evils and sufferings which will cleave to them through life, embitter its enjoyments, and destroy its usefulness.

The treatment of these eruptions should always be directed by the prudent and the intelligent physician. Never entrusted to a quack; nor should empirical or household prescriptions be ever attempted—the most fearful consequences do sometimes result from such sources.

None but the physician who is presumed to understand their relations and connections to internal parts and constitutional conditions, and who is competent to carry out the plan nature adopts to save life and rid the system of an inveterate enemy, by conducting the cure upon those parts where the sufferings are less



and the consequences of disease comparatively light; should ever be entrusted with the management of these affections.

When nature thus kindly protects the vital organs by developing disease upon external parts, nothing can be more unphilosophical and unscientific, nothing more injurious in its effects upon the organism, than the suppression; the driving back again of these eruptions, which is sure to be followed sooner or later by deplorable consequences.

Instances of the fatal effects arising from repelled eruptions from the use of external applications, are numerous in medical works. And they are constantly occurring in the practice of almost every physician; showing the intimate connection between these affections and the internal organs, and the operation of constitutional causes. We see this principle constantly exemplified in scarlet fever, measles and other diseases attended with eruptions, the safety of the patient being greatly dependent upon their full development, and "the repulsion of which is attended by the most grave consequences." "Not only is it necessary for us to be on our guard against the fatal effects of such retrocessions of these eruptive fevers, but farther to provide against those which proceed from the sudden disappearance of certain chronic inflammations, as of lichen, eczema, and impetigo. I shall have occasion to quote, in illustration, in regard to each of these diseases.

"The number of cases that have been witnessed, in which the disappearance of cutaneous affections coincided with the development or progress of an internal inflammatory disease, have made many afraid to attempt their treatment, or to desire their cure.

"When they exist at the same time, in the same individual, two affections, one of which is internal, the other external, it seems improper to attempt to combat the latter by any active means.

"Very little reflection must soon convince us, that a knowledge of the causes and connections of many cutaneous diseases will not a little influence us in our therapeutics.

"Thus, for example, when the eruption depends on the irritation of teething, we can have but little hope of its entire removal, until the process of dentition is completed; nor shall we feel inclined to harass the little patients by various remedies, but wait patiently for the period of irritation to pass, and with it the *sustaining* cause of the disease. When,

again, we encounter a cutaneous eruption, *sustained* by gastric or intestinal irritation, we direct our remedies to this latter morbid condition, as to the source of the malady. So, in eruptions depending on constitutional cause we cannot hope for, and ought not to promise their entire removal, *until time is allowed for the operation of appropriate remedies, to alter the state of the blood and constitution.* This is eminently the case in syphilitic and scrofulous eruptions, and in pellagra, *and it may be added in a majority of cutaneous diseases.* The eruption is properly but a *symptom*, or at any rate not more than a *part* of the entire disease.

"Amaurosis and convulsions, especially in young children, have sometimes been produced by the suppression of acute or chronic inflammatory affections of the skin. It is very possible, certainly, that effects have been ascribed to the repercussion of skin disease, of which they were totally innocent; but when such accidents occur, almost simultaneously with the disappearance of the skin disease, they give rise to serious questions of pathogeny and therapeutics."—*Rayer.*

## HOMŒOPATHY IN AUSTRIA.

*From reported cases, by John Epps, M. D.*

It is a common statement, "Homœopathy may do in chronic, but what will it do in acute cases?" An answer will be found in the cases published; but the following statements afford the best answer. They are to be found in WILDE'S "Austria, its literary, scientific, and medical institutions, and guides to the hospitals and sanatory establishments of Vienna," a work, quotations from which are in the *Lancet*.

"And although I neither advocate that doctrine, nor slander its supporters, I deem it but the part of truth and justice to lay the following statement before my readers. One of the cleanest and best regulated hospitals in the town is managed on the homœopathic plan. The following circumstances led to its erection:—The rapid spread of this mode of treatment in Austria, and the patronage it received from many noble and influential individuals in that country, attracted the attention of the government several years ago, who, with their characteristic jealousy of innovation, then issued an order forbidding it to be practised. As, however, this had not the effect of suppressing

it, but as it seemed rather to gain strength from the legal disabilities under which it thus labored, it was determined in 1828, to test its efficacy in the military hospital of the Josephinum. With this view, a commission was nominated, consisting of twelve professors, all of whom, it is but fair to observe, were strenuously opposed to the homœopathic doctrine. Dr. Marranzeller, a veteran homœopathist, and a contemporary of Hahnemann, was appointed as the physician, and two members of the commission always attended him during his visit, and at the expiration of every ten days, reported the progress of the cases under his charge. The only part of the report published, is that of Drs. Jager and Zang. It contains a very brief outline of the cases and their treatment, and expresses the surprise of these eminent professors at the happy issue of some of them. The commission, however, as a body, came to the conclusion, that from results obtained from their investigations, it was impossible to declare either for or against homœopathy. One of the twelve, however, subsequently stated his conviction of the efficacy of the system from these trials, and has since remained an open adherent of it.

"Whatever the opponents of this system may put forward against it, I am bound to say, and I am far from being a homœopathic practitioner, that the cases I saw treated by it in the Vienna hospital were fully as acute and virulent as those which have come under my observation elsewhere; and the statistics show that the mortality is much less than in the other hospitals of that city. Knoly, the Austrian *protomedicus*, has published those for 1838, which exhibit a mortality of but five or six per cent; while three similar institutions on the allopathic plan, enumerated before it in the same tables, show a mortality as high as from eight to ten per cent."

#### NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

Several meetings of a number of *regular allopathic physicians* of this city, have been held to form an institution with the above title.

Upon its formation it was solemnly declared by one of the prominent members that "the public, he did believe, had but little confidence in our profession, and that something must be done to change the character of the profession."

Another prominent and learned member declared that "the least savor and tincture of homœopathy will not be recognized by us of the old school. We must alter our generation and be educated anew." Now so far we cannot complain, for all this is substantially true. Our allopathic brethren no doubt have lost the confidence of the community, and if they are to regain that confidence, something must be done to change the character of the profession. And it is likewise equally clear that they have something to learn, should they embrace homœopathia. One of the first resolutions, after the formation of the Academy was in these words, viz: "That any member of this Academy who shall consult with an Homœopath, or other irregular practitioner, shall be considered to have forfeited his membership." This prominent resolution is in part correct, and in part absurd. It is true, they could not consult with an homœopathist, for the reason above stated;—they would have to be educated anew. Although a homœopathist might consult with any member of the Academy; for the reason, he is thoroughly educated in all that belongs to the art of the old school; yet the member of the Academy cannot consult with the homœopathist, because he is ignorant of the science of the new school.

That part of the resolution which classifies homœopathists with irregular practitioners is truly absurd; for they are governed by fixed laws, upon which there is no dispute, and no difference of opinion among the whole body of its practitioners. But can that be said of the school to which the members of the Academy belong? If they are regularly classified themselves, they must go with the most irregular—*they must go to the left*. We will answer for it, that upon a strict, and honest examination no two of them will be found holding the same views upon the theory and practice of medicine. What are they driving at? They would increase their influence and power by union—which is strong—but we would inform them, that—*truth is stronger*.

#### REPORTED CASES.

Many physicians of our school have a desire to see cases reported; and so strong has this become, that to indulge it, requires actual book-making. Why this is so, we will not at this time inquire. That the beginner of the practice of our art should indulge it, is natural



enough as to him, for reported cases serve to show the manner in which those more experienced, select and administer remedies; and thereby give him an insight into the general mode of prescribing; and afford accumulated and often striking evidence of the power of homœopathic remedies. In this way his faith may become confirmed, and his efforts to master an art which requires so much patient study, encouraged and strengthened. And they doubtless tend to spread and confirm the conviction in the public mind, of the safety and efficiency of homœopathic practice; and demonstrate the curative power of remedies in symptoms, not before observed. Other than for these, and perhaps, similar reasons, we cannot perceive how they can be useful, especially for those experienced in practice.

They are not intended, nor can they enable the physician to employ them as guides in the selection of remedies, and the treatment of other cases; for, it is doubtful if any two cases so simulate one another, as to allow of precisely the same treatment. Therefore, the practitioner who uses reported cases as models for his own practice, will not be likely to become familiar with the *materia medica*; and will contract the pernicious habit of generalization, so fatal to the success of a homœopathic physician. It often happens that the management of reported cases, although they may ultimately get well, is bad, and can only be detected by those who are familiar with the pathogenesis of drugs, and such have no need of them.

We have seen cases reported, in which the disease was represented as progressing in its developement, which had been mistaken for the effects of the drugs administered. We could point to published cases to prove this assertion; but we wish to avoid an occasion of offence.

We recollect a case of threatened inflammation of the brain in which the 1st attenuation of *Belladonna* was given every two hours, for a day or two; which must according to the well known action of that drug produce that difficulty; for, if it be capable of this effect on the healthy, how much more certain must be its action upon a system already predisposed to it. Therefore the tendency of *Belladonna* being to produce that disease; what could have been the result, in the case referred to by such doses? Precisely what did take place—the very difficulty dreaded; but which was removed by a single dose of *Hyoscyamus*

30th attenuation; which is an antidote to *Belladonna*; and yet the practitioner boasted of a splendid cure! What sort of a rule do such cases afford the experienced practitioner? what would be the consequence if adopted by the beginner? We leave our readers to answer.

Several years ago, we had a similar case in our own practice. There was disturbance of the brain; and we gave repeated doses of *Belladonna* of the 3d attenuation. In about 48 hours there were developed symptoms of inflammation of the brain, and we continued the same medicine, being so clearly indicated as we thought, although the patient grew worse and worse. A friend to whom the case was related, said "Doctor you have given too much *Belladonna*." We saw at once, the error, and administered a dose of *Hyoscyamus* 15th attenuation, and in a few hours the condition of the child improved, and if we remember, three doses of *Hyos.* were given and the patient cured in four days. We have since had abundant reason to trust to the rules of Hahnemann for the repetition of doses. We will conclude this article by a quotation from him, viz:

"The appropriation of a medicine to any given case of disease, does not depend solely upon the circumstances of its being perfectly homœopathic, but also upon the minute quantity of the dose in which it is administered. If *too strong* a dose of the remedy, that is even entirely homœopathic be given, *it will infallibly injure the patient*, though the medical substance be of ever so salutary a nature; the impression it makes is felt more sensibly, *because, in virtue of its homœopathic character*, the remedy acts precisely on those parts of the organism which have already been most exposed to the attacks of the natural disease."

#### HAHNEMANN ON COFFEE.

Sometimes the almost exhausted menses alternate with serious uterine hæmorrhage. In males, painful sensations at the anus, and nightly emissions. In both sexes the generative faculty disappears gradually. The natural vigorous energy of a healthy pair in coition dwindles to an insignificant nothing. Impotence in both sexes, and barrenness occur, and in the female, inability to suckle children. That dread of nature, that hollow-eyed spectre, onanism, generally lurks behind the coffee-cup (though the reading of wanton novels, exercise of the imagination, bad company, and

sedentary inactivity in close confined air, also contribute to it.)

If the frequent use of coffee, in its re-action, makes the body greatly liable to all kinds of disagreeable feelings, and the most painful sensations, it is easy to understand how it produces a greater tendency to caries of the bones than any other known injurious substance. The teeth are not more speedily and certainly rotted by any other error in diet than by indulging in coffee. Next to grief, and the abuse of quicksilver, coffee destroys the teeth most speedily. Close air, and overloading the stomach, especially at night also contribute to it. But coffee is in itself capable of destroying in a short time, or at least of making black, and yellow, this irreplaceable ornament of the mouth this necessary organ of clear speech, and of intimate mixture of the food with the digestive chyle. The loss of the fore or cutting teeth especially is peculiar to coffee drinkers.

Excepting the true *spina ventosa*, scarcely ever does caries in children (unless they have been wrongly treated with quicksilver) have any other cause than coffee. And other ulcers in children, which open slowly and lie deep, with a narrow aperture, are often the results of coffee alone.

Coffee has the most injurious effects on children and the more so the tenderer they are. Though it does not in itself produce true *rachitis*, but only hastens it when connected with its peculiar causes, (badly prepared vegetable food, and close, damp, confined air, it still produces, even alone, in very small children, even where the food is in other respects healthy, and the air pure, a not much less melancholy *children's hectic*. Their complexion becomes pale, their flesh flaccid. It is only after a long time that they learn to walk a little, but their gait is tottering, they fall easily, and always want to be carried. Their speech is stammering. They desire many and various things, yet eat little. The gaiety, contentedness, and cheerfulness, which compose the character of childhood, change to feeble listlessness, nothing makes them joyful, nothing contented,—in all things we see a half life in them. They are very fearful and easily terrified. Diarrhœa alternates with costiveness. There is a rattling in the chest, from phlegm in the air passages of the lungs, especially during sleep, which no coughing removes. The teeth make their appearance

with great difficulty, and imperfectly with many complaints, and even convulsions, and decay and fall before the time for changing them comes. Usually at evening, soon before going to bed, and sometimes not till they lie down, they experience a redness and heat of one or both cheeks. They sleep but half, toss about at night, often ask for drink, and then perspire, not only on the forehead, but also in the hair, especially on the hind part of the head, and cry in their sleep. They overcome all diseases with difficulty, and their recovery is very slow and imperfect.

They are generally exposed to spreading inflammation of the eyes, not unfrequently accompanied with an eruption in the face; when there occurs also a singular deadness of the upper eye-lids, so that they are not able to open the eyes fully, even when the redness, and swelling of the eye-lids are only moderate. This kind of inflammation of the eyes, which often lasts many years, in which they often lie on the face in continual ill-humor, and fretfulness, or else hide in the dark, always lying down or sitting crouched—this inflammation of the eyes, I repeat, attacks especially the transparent coat of the eye, covers it at first with red veins, afterwards with dark spots, or pustules appear on it, and little ulcers, which often eat deep, and threaten blindness.

This inflammation of the eyes, and this rattling in the breast, and others of the above named complaints, attack even infants at the breast, which partake of nothing but the mother's milk, in case the mother drinks much coffee, besides breathing much confined air. How wide-spreading, *penetrating*, must the injuriousness of this beverage be, when even the sucking child suffers from it.

Next to children, coffee has the worst effect, as has been said, on the female sex, and on men of letters, whose occupations are sedentary, and whose abode is in the confined air of their rooms; to these may be added mechanics whose business is sedentary.

The bad effects of coffee are, as mentioned above, most effectually diminished by great activity, and much exercise in the open air,—but not permanently.

Some persons, too, as though led by instinct, find a kind of counter poison to coffee, in the use of spirituous liquors. We cannot deny that they have some counteracting effect. But these new stimulants have no nutritive power, that is, they too are medicinal substances,



which, when daily swallowed as an article of diet, leave other bad effects behind, and still cannot entirely prevent the injuriousness of coffee, new and artificial stimulants of life with hurtful consequences in their train, though of a different and compound nature.

To abandon coffee gradually is the great remedy against its equally insidious and deep-seated bad effects, and bodily exercise in the open air generally promotes the final cure.—But if the body and mind have sunk too low for this, there are remedies, an enumeration of which, here, would, however, be out of place, as I am not writing for physicians. If I depict the daily use of coffee as highly injurious, and, after many years observation and experience, show that it relaxes and decays the energies of mind and body, the name of “medicinal beverage,” which I cannot but allow to coffee, will be made an objection to me.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. I.

New York, Saturday, February 6, 1847.

NO. 20.

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DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

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DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

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This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEB. 6, 1847.

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## PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

It is important to a right understanding of the practice of Hahnemann, that his views of the nature of disease, should be distinctly comprehended. He says:—

"In the healthy condition of man, the im-

material vital principle which animates the material body, exercises an absolute sway and maintains all its parts in the most admirable order and harmony, both of sensation and action, so that our indwelling rational spirit may freely employ these living healthy organs for the superior purposes of our existence. The material organism deprived of its vital principle, is incapable of sensation, action, or self preservation; it is the immaterial vital principle only, animating the former in its healthy and morbid condition, that imparts to it all sensation and enables it to perform its functions.

"In disease this spontaneous and immaterial vital principle pervading the physical organism, is primarily deranged by the dynamic influence of a morbid agent which is inimical to life. Only the vital principle thus disturbed, can give to the organism its abnormal sensations and incline it to the irregular actions which we call disease; for as an invisible principle duly cognizable through its operations in the organism, its morbid disturbances can be perceived solely by means of the expression of disease in the sensations and actions of that side of the organism exposed to the senses of the physician and bystanders, in other words, by the *morbid symptoms*, and can be indicated in no other manner. It is solely the morbidly affected vital principle which brings forth diseases, so that the expression of disease, perceptible by the senses, announces at the same time all the internal change, that is, all the morbid perturbations of the vital principle; in short, it displays the entire disease. Consequently, after a cure is effected, the cessation of all morbid expression, and of all sensible changes which are inconsistent with the healthy performance of the functions, necessarily pre-supposes, with an equal degree of certainty, a restoration of the vital principle to its state of integrity and the recovered health of the whole organism. In what manner the vital principle produces morbid indications in the system, that is, *how* it produces disease, is to the physician a useless question, and therefore will ever remain unanswered. Disease, therefore, (those forms of it not belonging to manual surgery,) considered as it is by the allopathists as *something* separate from the living organism and the vital principle which animates it, as something hidden internally, and material, how subtle soever its nature may be supposed, is a non-



entity, which could only be conceived in heads of material mould, and which for ages, hitherto, has given to medicine all those pernicious deviations which constitute it a mischievous art."

There is nothing in the above extract which is inconsistent with known physiological laws. This doctrine is now generally received by the profession; but whether it is so or not, it would be no easy task to disprove it. We assume that these views are correct, and they should not be forgotten by the student of homœopathy: if kept before his mind, what is to follow will harmonize so naturally, as to allow of a clear view of the practice of Hahnemann, and almost force a conviction of its truth.

(To be Continued.)

### OBJECTIONS TO HOMŒOPATHY.

(Continued.)

*Medical men have tried Homœopathy and have found it not to be true.*

This is of all objections to Homœopathy that which ought to have the greatest weight. Unprofessional persons may be deluded, carried away by enthusiasm, grasp at homœopathy as a novelty and a means of conversational excitement, and it is natural that the medical profession should be looked up to for a decision of the question whether homœopathy be true or not. They are supposed to be fully acquainted with the subject, not only in the interest of medical science, but, above all, on account of the immense responsibility inseparably connected with the practice of an art which in so many ways affects the health, life and happiness of individuals and families. Thousands of medical men have deemed it their conscientious duty candidly and fully to examine the doctrine of Hahnemann, both theoretically and practically; and these men are now, almost without exception, in the ranks of homœopathy. But there is an infinitely greater number who are either totally or in a great measure unacquainted with its theory and practice, as they daily prove both in their conversation and writing; yet who, notwithstanding, never hesitate giving a final opinion on the subject. Some have indeed made experiments with homœopathy and have failed, and although the failure of these experiments was owing entirely to their want of acquaintance with the principles and practice of homœopathy, yet their assertions, with regard to it, are frequently ta-

ken by the public at large as absolutely true. On this kind of opposition we offer the following remarks.

When any person in ordinary life gives a peremptory opinion on any subject, one naturally supposes that he is fully acquainted with that subject. If, however, it is found that such is not the case, no one to say the least, attaches any importance to what he says. Why may we ask, should this not be the same with regard to so important a subject as homœopathy? There are at present comparatively few medical men who have read a single book on homœopathy, or who frame their opinion upon anything better than the numerous abusive articles which frequently appear in the periodical Medical press. Would it not be fair to expect that any person who gives an opinion on homœopathy, should be well informed on the subject; and, if he is not, is not his opinion without any value? The circumstance that the main object of Homœopathy is the same as that of allopathy, namely, the cure of disease, can as such, no more enable a medical man of the old school to pronounce properly on homœopathy, than the commander of a sailing vessel could be looked upon as a competent judge on the merits of steamers, merely because both have for their object the carrying of passengers and merchandise.

This remark may also be fully applied to such practical trials as medical men have sometimes made of homœopathy and which have failed in their hands. We have frequently stated before, that the proper practice of homœopathy is one of the most difficult tasks which any man can undertake. It is not only necessary that the experimenter should lay aside his ordinary notions of medical practice, but also that he should be fully acquainted with the principles of homœopathy regarding diseases and other points, and above all, with the homœopathic materia medica; it requires besides candor of purpose and the ability of applying his theoretical knowledge to concrete cases of disease. When we examine the experiments which have been made by medical men on homœopathy and have failed, we invariably find that these essential conditions have been more or less neglected: and this assertion applies prominently to those experiments which were made by Mr. Andral in Paris, and which are so frequently brought forward as proofs of the inefficacy of homœopathy. These experiments are, strange to say, so utterly destitute of value in any point of view, that the merest tyro in

homœopathy would be ashamed of them. We hold it to be a point of almost mathematical certainty, that any candid medical man who in testing the value of homœopathy in practice adheres to the above mentioned conditions, will find that the system is true, and that the results answer his best expectations. But to presume that practical trials should succeed without a proper acquaintance with the subject, is contrary to common sense, and to expect that a medical man of the old school should, merely as such, be competent to institute them properly, is as little likely as that a person who can drive an ordinary coach, should be, for that reason, able to conduct a locomotive on a railway. If medical men, instead of abusing homœopathy in passionate language little worthy of scientific pursuit, would study that system patiently, and after doing so, institute candid and fair trials, they would follow the only true method of investigating the subject, and then either reject or adopt it according as their own conviction and sense of duty would impel them to do.

*Homœopathy is going down every where.*

If homœopathy did not rest upon the unalterable basis of truth, it is more than probable that, as other so called systems brought forward from time to time in medicine, it would have shot up like a bright meteor to dazzle the eye of the beholder, to fall, be extinguished and forgotten after a short-lived existence. Every one is aware that such is not the case. Fifty-five years has now passed since its discovery, and every year has witnessed its gradual but sure and steady progress. In the present history of homœopathy we may establish two broad periods; the first dating from its beginning to the time when cholera appeared in Europe; the second, from that to the present time. If during the former the progress of homœopathy was slow and almost exclusively limited to Germany, its developement during the second has been so rapid and extensive among both the profession and the public, in all parts of the civilized world, that it has become a serious rival to its older sister. Perhaps at no previous period had allopathy manifested more conspicuously the precarious character of its resources and the uncertainty of its results, than when that destructive epidemic swept irresistibly over the civilized parts of Europe; and at no previous period had the truth, certainty and practical worth of homœopathy shone forth more brilliantly. Official

experiment instituted by several governments, as well as the early experience of that time, led to the melancholy truth that fifty per cent. of persons attacked with cholera died, whether left to nature alone or put under the care of allopathy; on the other side it was ascertained in the same official manner, that only eight to 8½ per cent. died when treated homœopathically. Hundreds of contradictory remedies and prescriptions were recommended by the allopathic school, and all tried in vain; four or five different medicines were recommended by the immortal founder of homœopathy, and led to the above favorable results.

These events did not escape the public eye, and a system which was able to struggle so successfully with an enemy who defied all the weapons of the ordinary medicine, could not possibly be what its opponents had always represented it to be, and therefore a powerful reaction took place in its favor. Governments which, through their medical councils, had impeded the progress of the new doctrine in every possible way, repealed their interdictory edicts and favored its establishment by grants of public money; the public combined for the establishment of hospitals, dispensaries and other means of propagation, and the impulse which homœopathy received at that time became the main cause of its rapid and extensive propagation during latter years, and of the imposing external position which it now occupies every where. Fifteen years ago homœopathy was adopted by only very few medical men out of Germany, and there is not now a country, which has the slightest claim to civilization, in which its professional, or at least its unprofessional adherents, are not most numerous. There were for instance, at that time only three or four homœopathic physicians in Vienna, and there are now more than a hundred; there were two or three in Paris, and there are now upwards of ninety; in London it was altogether unknown, and there are now more than twenty professional adherents. In Edinburgh, the classical seat of medical science, the new heresy has made very extensive progress, and Dr. Henderson, Professor of General Pathology at the University, has openly embraced it. In Sicily, ten years ago the very name of homœopathy was unknown, and now the number of homœopathic practitioners exceeds by far that of the followers of allopathy throughout the island. About the same time it was still unknown in the United States of America, and there are now, upwards of 1000 physicians



who have frankly embraced homœopathy. In Germany, its native country, it is now after fifty years' severe struggle, fully recognized. Governments which formerly threw every obstacle in the way of homœopathy, now give it their open legal support and secure it in its rights and privileges.

In Prussia and Brunswick, homœopathy forms part of the official medical examination, and it is not a little curious to see that some of the most eminent professors who had formerly never studied homœopathy, and therefore, were its violent opponents, are now obliged to act as official examiners. At many of the German Universities, regular lectures are given on homœopathy; many members of the reigning houses in Europe have selected their medical attendants from among the homœopaths. In France the system is widely spread among the medical practitioners, and also among the professors of some Universities; the same in Spain Italy and Sweden. In Russia also, homœopathy is extensively diffused and enjoys full legal support.

These few statistical data, which might easily be increased, will, we hope, suffice to show that *Homœopathy is not going down every where.*—*Concise View, &c.*

#### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

The several varieties of cutaneous affections which existed in the earliest ages of mankind, and those described by Moses, Hahnemann attributed to *psora*, "which appears at that time to have especially affected the external parts of the body." It occurred as leprosy; in the middle ages, in Europe, as erysipelas; and again in the 15th century in the form of leprosy;—"names are of no consequence, since the essence of this miasm is every where the same. Nevertheless, *psora*, spreading farther and farther in the form of a horrible eruption upon the skin, found at least some external alleviation in those means of cleanliness which the crusaders had brought along with them from the East, such as (cotton, linen) shirts which had been unknown in Europe heretofore, and the frequent use of warm baths, together with an increasing refinement and more select nourishment, succeeded, in a couple of centuries, in diminishing the disgusting appearance of *psora*, so as to reduce the disease, towards the end of the fifteenth century, to the ordinary eruption of the itch.

The psoric eruption which appeared after infection had taken place, and which, in civilized countries had been reduced to a simple manifestation of the common itch, was easily driven from the skin by all sorts of contrivances. By means of baths, lotions, sulphur ointments, preparations of lead, copper, zinc, and mercury, of which the middle and higher classes availed themselves, the psoric eruption was often, and is now so quickly suppressed, that it remained often unknown whether a child or a full-grown person, in those classes, had been infected with the itch.

But the cause of humanity was not improved by these proceedings; on the contrary, in many respects it grew worse. During the centuries when the psoric eruption was first known in the form of leprosy, the patients though they suffered much in consequence of lancinating pains in the tumours and scabs, and the vehement itching all around, enjoyed nevertheless a fair share of general health. For, the obstinately lasting eruption upon the skin served as a substitute for the internal psora; and, what is more, the horrible and disgusting appearance of leprosy patients made such an impression upon all healthy persons that they were frightened away already at a distance; in this way the leprosy patients being kept apart from human society in separate houses, the contagion remained limited and was, comparatively speaking, rare.

The milder forms of *psora* which appeared again, as has been mentioned before, during the 14th and 15th centuries, in the shape of the itch, infected a far greater number than the leprosy patients were able to do, whose frightful appearance caused them to be carefully avoided by every body. The itch vesicles do scarcely appear, and may be easily kept concealed; but being constantly scratched open in consequence of the intolerable itching, and the fluid being spread over the skin and those things which had been touched by such patients, the infection, being concealed, takes place the more easily and certainly, and affects a greater number.

In this way *psora* has become the most contagious and the most universal of the chronic miasms.

The more concealed and proportionately easier and more frequent infection of the itch is not the only disadvantage which has resulted for mankind from the psoric miasm having been reduced from leprosy to the common itch. There is another disadvantage, which is this,

that the essence of this reduced psora is unchanged, that it is equally formidable as before and that, being more easily repelled from the skin, it appears so much more imperceptibly upon the inner surfaces; the chief symptom, which is the external eruption, having been suppressed, it produces an innumerable quantity of secondary chronic ailments. Physicians lose sight of the origin of that host of secondary morbid symptoms; they are unable to discover it, and the secondary disease is just as incurable as had been the original malady with its eruption existing upon the skin. This had in fact, never been thoroughly cured, as experience showed, but had constantly been made worse by a quantity of false remedies.

At the time when the psoric poison was yet reduced to its formidable external substitute leprosy, there were much less nervous affections, painful ailments, spasms, cancerous ulcers, adventitious formations, weaknesses, paralyzes, consumptions, and degenerations of either body or soul, than there are now. These have especially appeared in the last three centuries from the above named causes.

*Psora* became therefore the *common* mother of most chronic diseases.

Modern physicians, even the most distinguished, without excepting almost any, either teacher or author, have established the rule, and have given it almost as an infallible proposition, "that every psoric eruption is a mere local affection of the skin, with which the organism has nothing to do; that the eruption may be unhesitatingly removed by sulphur ointments, by the more active ointment of Jasser, by sulphur fumigations, by solutions of lead or zinc, but most speedily by mercurial preparations; that health is restored as soon as the external eruption has been removed; that it is indeed true that, by neglecting the eruption and leaving it upon the skin, the morbid matter may be finally absorbed into the humours; that it may deteriorate the blood, and ruin the general health; that these perverted humours may however be easily removed out of the system by purgatives and bloodlettings; but that all these secondary diseases may be entirely avoided by speedily removing the eruption from the skin." There never was taught a doctrine which has been more fraught with evil consequences for mankind.

Such horrible untruths were not only taught formerly, but they are taught and even practiced in our days. In the most celebrated civil and military hospitals of the most enlightened

countries and cities, and also among private patients of all classes, in prisons and orphan asylums, in short, all those who are affected with the itch, are ordered, by common as well as distinguished physicians, to use external applications for the purpose of removing the eruption the sooner the better, (as they imagine;) they may use perhaps large quantities of flower of sulphur internally, and some strong purgatives, with a view, as they suppose, of cleansing the system. This being done, they impudently assert that the disease is cured, and the patients are dismissed without the least regard for the secondary ailments which will certainly sooner or later manifest themselves as results of the psoric reaction.

The deceived and unfortunate patients sooner or later return to the hospital, affected with the unavoidable consequences of the former treatment, such as swellings, obstinate pain in various parts of the body, hypochondria, hysteria, gout, consumption, tubercular phthisis, spasmodic asthma, blindness, deafness, paralysis, carcinoma of the bones, cancerous ulcers, spasms, hemorrhage, diseases of the mind and the soul, etc. These are considered new diseases, and without suspecting their origin, treated according to the usual routine of therapeutics. But the remedies are directed against phantoms, imaginary causes, until, after many years of increasing suffering, death ensues, and frees the patients from the hands of the doctor.

In the treatment of psora the older physicians were much more conscientious than modern doctors are, and they were much more enlightened observers. Their practice was based upon experience, which showed them that the removal of the psoric eruption from the skin by external applications was followed by innumerable ailments, and the most grievous chronic maladies. Hence they concluded that every case of itch originated in some internal disease, which they endeavoured to cure, as well as possible, by an innumerable quantity of their therapeutic agents. Of course, their endeavors were fruitless, for they were ignorant of the only true method of curing psoric diseases, which it was reserved for homœopathy to reveal to the world. Nevertheless, their efforts being aimed at removing the internal disease, which had given origin to the eruption upon the skin, they deserve much praise. In this respect the older physicians differ from the modern, whose chief object is to remove the itch from the



skin as though it were a mere cutaneous disease, without dreaming of the subsequent injuries which the older physicians have, in a thousand instances, exhibited in their works as warning examples.

But the remarks of these honest practitioners are too striking to be left unnoticed, or to be treated with contempt.

I shall subjoin here some of the innumerable cases of malpractice in the treatment of the itch, which the older physicians have left us, and which will be found sufficient, though I might double the number by quoting the cases which I have witnessed myself, to prove that the internal *psora* breaks forth with a perfect rage whenever it has been deprived of its external substitute, the cutaneous eruption. Would that the physician might learn from these cases that all his efforts should be directed against the internal disease, and that an adequate cure of this disease will not only cause the cutaneous eruption completely to disappear, but will prevent, and in case they should already exist, will cure all the secondary chronic ailments consequent upon psoric reaction, and undermining the patient's life to his last moment.

#### DISEASES OF CHILDREN, DENTITION.

In treating of the eruptions upon the skin incident to the period of teething, whatever may be their form, external appearance, or by whatever names designated, whether as *crusta lactea*, (scald head,) tooth rashes, sprue, red gum, excoriations, etc., our object is to show that the treatment should be constitutional, and by means adapted to rid the system of the predisposing cause or latent virus giving rise to them, and the danger and inutility of the old treatment—especially from external applications; and this we are enabled fully to do, from the writings of *allopathic* physicians.—We quote from Rayer on Diseases of the Skin.

“In academical collections, instances may be found recorded of diseases of the digestive organs following the disappearance of tetter or tineas. These cases, however, rarely occur, and seem often little conclusive. The numerous inquiries that have been instituted in later times in regard to diseases of the stomach, of the intestinal canal and of parts connected with these, have added but little to the

earlier observations we possess; their causes have too frequently been overlooked, or passed by in silence.

“Several cases tend to show that the suppression of an eruption or of a scabies may occasion epilepsy, insanity, and other cerebral affections. In the year 1785 at Bassenheim, on the left bank of the Rhine, a corporal, about 21 years of age, of a spare and bilious temperament, laboring under a severe tettery affection, about four inches in diameter, situated on the fore and upper part of the right thigh, was received into the hospital. The disease extended over a small part of the scrotum, and caused violent itching there. M. Bouillard chief surgeon of the hospital, employed a palliative and cautious treatment in the first instance; but, by and by, yielding to the importunities of the patient, who complained of the intolerable prurities (itching) of the affected part which prevented all sleep, he gave his consent to the application of compresses, dipped in vinegar and water, to the seat of the disease. His surprise was great the next day when he found this man in a deplorable condition. The eruption had disappeared from the limb, but a state of somnolence, attended with stertorous breathing and complete absence of sensation and voluntary motion, supervened immediately afterwards. Every means was tried to bring back the disease; blisters were applied to the spot first affected, and measures calculated to subdue the apoplectic metastasis were exhausted in vain. The cerebral disease continued to advance unchecked, and the patient died on the third day.

“Pulmonary consumption has been seen following the cure of herpetic affections. Lentin, Loder, Pederit, and Portal, have given cases of phthisis which were ascribed to the suppression of the perspiration from the soles of the feet. A young man *whom I had cured* (?) of an eczema of the legs, was attacked *almost immediately after* with a pleurisy, for which he put himself under my care, and from which he was relieved without any return of the eruption. I have seen bronchitis follow the cure (*suppression*?) of rupia in a scrofulous subject; and I have collected several analogous instances of pulmonary inflammation following the *methodic cure* of eczema, of various species of lichen and of psorias.

“Diseases of the heart and its membranes, have also been observed to follow the suppres-

sion of various forms of cutaneous inflammations.

Admitting always that these affections are deserving of much attention, I yet affirm that the mischiefs attributed to the removal of tetters and tineas are much rarer than is generally imagined.\* The most common consequences of these retrocessions observed are ophthalmic affections, inflammations of the glands of the neck, otitis, deafness *and now and then* hydro cephalus acutus in infancy; pulmonary catarrh, phthisis and other affections of the thoracic viscera in young people; affections of the liver, ascites (dropsy,) cystitis, &c., in riper years and in old age."

Here are consequences enough, it must be conceded, to establish the conviction, in the mind of the thinking and prudent physician, of the danger to be apprehended from the suppression of eruptions, and that the ordinary means used by which such results are effected, cannot be warranted upon any sound pathological or therapeutic principle.

If the very great variety in form and appearance of these chronic cutaneous affections, are but so many varying manifestations of an inherent constitutional cause, which becomes thus developed in accordance with peculiar circumstances and exciting causes, some general and fixed laws of cure should be known to the profession, by which the treatment should be directed, and prove to be such that while it is capable of eradicating the evil from the system it shall not be liable to produce these dangerous retrocessions and metastasis to internal parts, and engender obstinate and incurable forms of the disease. That the profession have till now been without any such fixed laws, and have been guided solely by various and constantly changing and multiplying expedients, to the establishment of neither safe nor certain rules of practice, is quite apparent.

"An *infinity* of remedies and of *different curative plans* have been recommended in acute and chronic inflammatory affections of the skin, in a manner so general as to render the study of their principal applications, from the

same point of view, a subject of positive utility. This first glance will also *recall to our notice* certain therapeutical investigations which *it would be well to repeat* at the present day, and under better ascertained conditions.

"The treatment of chronic diseases of the skin is held with justice to be one of the most difficult matters in the healing art. Besides getting occasionally well under the influence of the most dissimilar remedies, *the choice and application, and occasion to make use of which* are beset with numerous difficulties and much uncertainty, we cannot conceal from ourselves something of a secret disinclination to attack many of these affections, *the disappearance of which may be succeeded by more or less serious symptoms.*

We give a few quotations from the treatment recommended, which comprise the best and most approved means known to the profession, collected from the best authorities of the school. These are an '*infinity*,' extending over many large quarto pages, and from which may be seen, not only the variety, but the uncertainty of the means employed—the inefficiency of many, and the positive ill effects of others.

"*Vegetable diet, while meats, &c., are available* in a great many chronic inflammations of the skin \* \* \*

"*Milk diet, perseveringly employed*, has accomplished cures where pharmaceutical preparations, directed with the best views, had totally failed \* \* \* *Veal or chicken broth* may be recommended to those who have a distaste to the habitual use of milk; particular advantages have been presumed, by some, to be possessed by broths made from *the sea-turtle, from the lizard and the viper*; and the numerous cases detailed of their good effects in Italy, Germany, France and England, in cases of cancer, lepra, elephantiasis, syphilitic eruptions, &c., should induce us, without prejudice, to repeat *these experiments.*

"*Fasting* has been recommended in various forms of chronic inflammations of the skin, and particularly in syphilitic affections. \* \* \* Under the influence of these severe fasts, the constitution is so much weakened, that though the skin diseases *get well*, the strict regimen has often to be abandoned; *and then the eruptions reappear* in the same measure as the general health improves under the stimulus of a better diet.

"If the advantages of an appropriate regimen are well proved, the mischiefs arising

\* Our author gives no reasons for this affirmation. The presumption certainly is, from his own observations and statement of facts, that the mischiefs attributed to the removal of these skin affections, *are much more frequent* than is generally imagined—like causes are apt to produce like effects.



from imprudences and irregularities in the mode of living, from the abuse of coffee, of strong drink, of *salt* and highly seasoned food, &c., are not less apparent. It is enough, in a great number of cases, for patients in the way of recovery, or actually well, to abandon for a moment the strict system they had followed, to suffer an increase or recurrence of the disease. Sometimes, too, these relapses happen *after such an interval as seemed to warrant some remission of the severe watch that had been previously kept over the kinds and quantities of food employed.*"

It will appear from the *frequent return* of these eruptions, notwithstanding the *cures* effected by these and similar means, that the cause is inherent in the system; and the object of art should be to eradicate it, rather than to get rid of its external development. Till this is accomplished, it is far better that the eruption should remain, and until then, it is improper to talk of cures. In making these extracts, our purpose is, to determine correct principles for the management of these affections. The cause being constitutional, and the same, at whatever period of life, and from whatever exciting causes these eruptions make their appearance, the principle of treatment must be the same. Whenever they do appear they furnish an indication for the employment of specific remedies; and as they are more commonly developed during childhood, and especially at the period of teething, they are more susceptible of radical cure; it is of the highest importance that the proper treatment be ascertained and employed, otherwise the cause will remain in the system, and become from time to time, according to circumstances and the operation of exciting causes, manifested by means of these eruptions, or remain latent, predisposing the system to attacks of acute disease, or become developed upon internal parts, giving rise to many chronic ailments and sufferings, or productive of organic lesions. In our next article we shall speak of the use of *external remedies*.

### CASE OF CROUP.

The following interesting paper was read to the "Homœopathic Society of New York," by Doctor Bayard. By resolution of the Society, its publication was requested in the American Journal of Homœopathy.

"On Tuesday the 1st of Dec., the patient a

girl of thirteen, was suffering from catarrh, with severe pain in her head and back—*nux* was administered at night, a few pellets of the fourth or fifth dilution. On Wednesday morning she coughed frequently and complained of great soreness of the throat, difficulty of swallowing, &c. *Belladonna* was given, and as there was little or no melioration of the symptoms, in the evening it was followed by *Merc. viv.* The weather was now severely cold and from reckless exposure of herself during rain on Thursday, her sufferings seemed much increased. In the afternoon of that day her face became flushed, her skin dry and hot, and the difficulty of swallowing so great that she refused to eat or drink. About 7 P. M., she retired to bed, and remained quiet, and as it was supposed, asleep, for some time; but between 9 and 10 P. M., one of the family passing her door, was startled by hearing a rough, hoarse, barking cough, which seemed to come with every inhalation of the breath. There was something indescribably alarming in its sound which told the most inexperienced that there was not a moment to be lost in administering the appropriate remedies. Accordingly *Aconite*—about a dozen pellets of the fourth or fifth dilution dissolved in three-fourths of a tumbler of water—was given two or three times, at intervals of fifteen or twenty minutes—then *spongia* of the same dilution, prepared in the same way, was alternated with the *aconite*. No change occurred in the symptoms except what seemed a rapid progression of the disease, the cough becoming more deep and hoarse, the flush of the face deepening first into crimson and then into purple, and the contortions of the whole form, showing the agony with which every breath was won.

Such was the condition of the patient at midnight, when Dr. Bayard arrived, too late, it was feared, to be of service. "She will die before morning," had been the conviction of every one who heard that cough, and when, in less than half an hour after Dr. Bayard's arrival, its deep, rough sound became in some degree changed, and its violence lessened, every heart sank under the sad impression that the powers of life were failing, and the stillness which soon succeeded that change was fearful to those who stood not beside her, for it seemed to them as the stillness of death. In little more than an hour after first seeing her, Dr. Bayard was able to leave her without apprehension. The medicine, of which a single dose had produced such wonderful results,

was left for her with directions that it should not be repeated, unless there should be a decided revival of the symptoms that had first demanded it. The patient slept with little interruption for several hours, and it was not till nearly 6 A. M., that the cough returned with any persistence. The medicine was repeated—half a spoonful of the water in which it had been dissolved being given—it gave immediate and enduring relief. The patient had no return of cough or hoarseness.”

The above statement was drawn up at my request, by the accomplished author of “Two Lives, &c., who was an eye witness to the sufferings of the child. I found the patient under a harsh dry cough, the respiration stridulous, the expression of the countenance anxious, the cheeks puffed and livid, pulse frequent and small, extremities cold—great restlessness and jactitation. On looking into the throat, I found the fauces highly inflamed and swollen. I dissolved six pellets of the Kali Bichro., of the 6th dilution, in a tumbler half full of water, and under these circumstances I administered a dessert spoonful of the solution. In ten minutes thereafter, there were pauses in the before incessant cough—in thirty minutes the child had sunk into a quiet sleep, and the difficult respiration subsided.

### HOMŒOPATHY IN MICHIGAN.

The following is from a member of the bar in Michigan, from whom we published an interesting communication in a former number of the Journal.

“I have read with special interest the article in your Journal of January 6th, on *Amateur practice*, in relation to which I have felt so sensitive, and so fully agree with its sentiments, that I beg leave to say a few words on the subject.

Having no homœopathic physician in our place, I have been forced by circumstances, against my inclination, occasionally to administer the remedies. Since I gave you an account of the success of the remedies in my hands, some months ago, I have avoided making any prescriptions, except in my own family, unless at the urgent solicitation of particular friends; and only then after careful study, close observation, and anxious thought, because I feel a deep and solemn conviction of the truth of homœopathic law and of the importance of its careful and skilful application.

I am continually applied to for medicine, but uniformly decline prescribing, referring patients to Drs. Wheaton & Ellis of Detroit, and they are gratified with the result of their treatment.

Our new Methodist Minister, partly educated as a physician, is a decided and intelligent Homœopathist. He has prescribed a good deal amongst his people and with proper caution. They are consequently favourably impressed with the superiority of the practice, and are longing for a physician.

The methodist Bishop, at the late annual conference for this state, decidedly recommended Homœopathy, as I am informed, to the ministers; and the interest in the new system is becoming deep and wide spread.

In intelligent and honest hands, nothing can stay its progress, until medicine has undergone a radical reformation. I thank Providence that I have been able to throw any light on this subject, and to have been the means of affording relief to any who have long been seeking it in vain.

I will give you one or two records of my own doings:

Some six weeks since, there was a working man, in our village, who had chills and fevers for two months, and with all the strong doses, he could not get rid of the unpleasant disease. For all this time he was unable to work. He had become very weak, had nightly sweats, &c. &c. His employer was very urgent that I should try to prescribe. I gave him a dose of Carbo Veg: on his tongue at noon. Next morning he had bilious vomiting, &c. His ague fits being expected that *evening*, and temperament, &c., concurring, I gave him Pulsatilla two pills, every three or four hours. He had no more ague. The following day—having yellow skin, night sweats and great weakness—I gave him two pellets Arsenicum 30th att. and the following morning two more, and told him to let it act. He took no more, and went to work in about five days, and is now well and hardy.

A few days ago a lady, resident at Utica, thirteen miles from this place, came here on a visit and was attacked with ague. She was very anxious to try Homœopathy, and her husband joined in an earnest request that I should prescribe. She being one of the loveliest of women and an old friend I agreed, and he left her in town for that purpose. I gave her Carbo Veg: two doses, which ended the ague. I then gave Puls. and Nux. and finally



Sulp. 30, for a cold and hoarseness, as well as for the purpose of antidoting the calomel, &c. She already considers herself *well*. She has had the ague ever since last summer, never being clear of it for a longer period than ten days or two weeks. I was perfectly confident of the result, or I should not have undertaken it. I have discovered that by the new system, these old and obstinate agues are much more easily cured than recent cases; whereas the old system has to abandon them in utter despair. I believe the reason to be, that the patient has only, or principally, a medicinal disease, and every new application of the miserable routine, only prolongs it.

Since the first few weeks, I have succeeded in avoiding any considerable draft on my time from this source, and have only been obliged in a few instances to follow the dictates of benevolence, in relieving distress and pain.

#### HAHNEMANN ON COFFEE.

"Medicines are salutary things," say the ignorant. They are so, but only under certain indispensable conditions. The medicine is salutary only when it is proper for the case. But no medicine is proper for health; and to use a medicine as a beverage in healthy ordinary life, is a ruinous attempt—is a contradiction in itself.

I respect the medicinal virtues of coffee, when it is medically employed in the right place, as much as I do those of every other medicament. Nothing in God's creation is superfluous; all things were created for the good of man, the more efficacious of them especially, among which coffee holds a distinguished rank. But listen to me.

Every single medicine produces some particular changes in the healthy human body, exclusively peculiar to itself. If we know these and employ the medicament in cases of sickness which have a nearly correspondent similarity to the changes which the drug itself is capable of producing in the healthy body, a radical cure follows. This application of the drug is the curative one, and the only one admissible in tedious diseases.

By the power of a medicine to produce a change in the human body, in the manner peculiar to it, I understand its first or original operation. I have already said, that the first action of a medicine (for some hours after

taking it) is the exact opposite of its re-action, or of the condition in which it leaves the body, as soon as its first operation is over.

If the original operation of a medicine is the exact opposite of the diseased condition of the body which we seek to cure, its application is *palliative*. An almost instantaneous improvement follows; but after some hours, the evil returns, and attains a greater height than before the use of the remedy; when the secondary effect of the medicine is similar to the primary disease, it strengthens the latter. A miserable mode of cure, when a disease of long standing is to be conquered.

For example,—the primary operation of opium on the healthy body is the production of a stupifying, snoring sleep, and its final effect the contrary, sleeplessness.

If, then, the physician is silly enough to attack a diseased habitual sleeplessness by means of opium, he proceeds by palliatives; a stupid, heavy, unrefreshing sleep soon follows the opium; but its re-action is, as has been said, sleeplessness, an addition to his former habitual sleeplessness, which only grows worse. After twenty-four hours, the patient sleeps still less than he did before taking the opium, unless a still stronger dose of it is used, whose re-action produces a still greater sleeplessness; that is, an increase of the evil which the physician vainly imagined he was seeking to cure.

In this way, too, coffee affords a mere palliative relief, when it is used as a remedy; for instance, in inveterate costiveness, proceeding from inactivity of the intestinal canal.\* Its first action, as has been said, is the opposite of this condition; it has a palliative effect, and when used for the first time, or but seldom, soon opens the body, but afterwards, under its final operations, the costiveness becomes only so much the greater. If we attempt to remove this by coffee, in the same palliative method, we must either drink more, or have it made stronger, and the habitual costiveness is not discharged by it, for it makes its appearance, and in a more obstinate form, as the re-action of the coffee recurs, as soon as we cease to use this palliative, or do not employ stronger or more frequent doses.

We shall find, that the medical excuses which coffee drinkers advance to extenuate this habit, are all founded on this principle of

\* This is commonly the case with sedentary persons.

palliation, and yet, nothing is more certain than that the long-continued employment of a medicine, as a palliative, is injurious; but the using medicine as food, is a palliative the most hurtful of all.

If, then, while I eschew its misuse as a daily beverage, I praise the great medical virtues of coffee, I am to be understood as referring only to its curative application in chronic complaints, which greatly resemble its primary operation, and of its palliative use in sudden and threatening diseases, which closely resemble its final operation. This is the only rational and wise use of a beverage which hundreds of millions misuse to their injury, which few understand the nature of, but which, in its proper place, is highly beneficial.

#### THE NEW YORK PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

This Society, chiefly composed of Allopathic practitioners, have recently voted out of their body a member who is as accomplished as any they possess—one zealously devoted to the objects of their Society, and a ripe scholar in all that appertains to the profession. He was voted out on the sole ground of his believing in the truth of Homœopathy, when his belief or disbelief in any of the medical theories could not in any possible way affect the object of the Association—nor was it even pretended that his peculiar views interfered with his usefulness as a member. As a known Homœopathist he was elected, and associated with them as such from the formation of the Society; but now he is suddenly called upon to renounce his faith or leave the Society. Why, at this special time, this spirit of intolerance?—The answer is found in the following facts.

But a few days ago, an association was formed in this city under the name of the *New York Academy of Medicine*, whose object surely should have been the advancement of the science of medicine, but, alas for poor human nature, which so often falls short of its mark, the spirit of partizanship entered their hall, and decided to build a surrounding wall, so broad and so high as effectually to exclude all light except such as may reside with them, and to roof it all over with a high-sounding title, borrowed from Paris direct. What a perfect old curiosity shop it will be—surely designed by some feeble old man in his dotage. The New York Pathological Society, desiring

as a body to take the veil and enter this medical monastery, were constrained to get rid of a truly worthy member, who would look beyond the wall into Nature. We rejoice that he chose the wiser and the nobler part, and, rather than abjure the truth, was willing to be thrust out; and we can but pity those who voluntarily forge chains for their minds, and thus narrow their intellectual horizon.

#### LETHEON.

We intended to have referred again to this article, of which so much has been said in the medical journals and newspapers; but, as its use has been so generally condemned, we do not deem it necessary. The more important reasons urged against it are, that it is capable, like other poisonous drugs when taken into the system in large doses, of producing “serious and almost fatal consequences.” Many cases have been published illustrating its dangerous effects. Were those of other drugs—opium, antimony, calomel, iodine, &c.—carefully noticed, their use in the present reckless manner, in large doses, would be condemned for the same reasons.

The history of this substance affords another instance of the eagerness with which *new remedies* are seized upon as “triumphs in medical art,” and the deplorable necessity which exists in the old school to determine only by hazardous experimenting, the means it may adopt for the treatment of the sick and the relief of suffering, while they reject and refuse even to examine fundamental principles in medicine, which alone can point out the path of safety and certainty in the administration of drugs.

What a contrast is furnished by the system of Hahnemann. While the Allopathist is driven on in the vain search after new things, which are introduced to-day with “a flourish of trumpets,” and abandoned to-morrow, the Homœopathist, guided by fixed and immutable laws, is enabled to avoid pernicious changes in his art.

The friends of Homœopathy in Philadelphia can have this Journal delivered at their houses on the day of publication, by leaving their names with C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North-Fourth street.



## HOMŒOPATHY AND ALLOPATHY COMPARED.

*By S. ROSA, M. D., of Painesville, Ohio.*

This is an interesting pamphlet of 32 pages, which may be read with profit.

The doctrines and practice of Hahnemann are spreading in Ohio. This system of medicine has been embraced in that State by some of the most eminent men of the profession; and its superiority in the treatment of the fevers of that section of our country is acknowledged by the people, who, in some instances, have to send fifty miles for a physician of our school.

## BONNINGHAUSEN'S THERAPEUTIC POCKET BOOK.

We have received a communication from Otis Clapp, Boston, too late for insertion, announcing that he has in Press, and will publish in course of this week, the above work, edited by Dr. Okie. It will make a very neat volume, in the 18mo. form, and will be convenient for carrying in the pocket.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. I. New York, Saturday, February 20, 1847. NO. 21.

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DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

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DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

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This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEB. 20, 1847.

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## AGENTS.

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## PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

The kind and degree of opposition to the doctrines of Hahnemann, is proof of how large a portion of the profession have neglected a careful study of his writings; and even some of his disciples furnish too much evidence of

having been remiss in their duty in this respect. No work, in our opinion, is better adapted to expose the errors in medicine, which have been entailed upon us for so many hundreds of years, than the Organon of Homœopathic medicine. It would seem that in the treatment of diseases, as well as the mode of investigating them, and the conclusions arrived at in regard to their nature, most men have seen fit to dispense with what, on other subjects, would be looked upon as essential to correct reasoning and sound judgment. We can scarcely believe, yet the evidence of the fact is before us, that any one could for a moment doubt the truth of this statement, viz.:

"There is no curable malady, nor any invisible morbid change, in the interior of man, which admits of cure, that is not made known by morbid indications or symptoms to the physician of accurate observation. The sufferings of the immaterial vital principle which animates the interior of our bodies, when it is morbidly disturbed, and the mass of symptoms produced by it in the organism, which are externally manifested, and represent the actual malady, constitute a whole—they are one and the same. The organism is, indeed, the material instrument of life; but without that animation which is derived from the instinctive sensibility and control of the vital principle, its existence is as inconceivable as that of a vital principle without an organism; consequently, both constitute a unit—although, for the sake of ease in comprehension, our minds may separate this unity into two ideas."

We are aware, that if this doctrine is admitted, much—very much—of the "learned lumber of the schools" will be swept away; and, for aught we know to the contrary, it may be for this very reason it is rejected by so many, who should be the very first to receive it.

Can any one in his senses suppose for a moment, that morbid changes can take place, and become subjects of medical treatment, that are not made known by symptoms? We regret to say, that there are those who thus



think, and thus speak, and thus write. The question at issue is not, that morbid changes do take place in the interior of man, which are not reflected externally; but it is, that when they are manifested to the senses, then, and not until then, do they become the subjects of treatment. The morbid alterations in the health of the patient taken together, which are evident to the senses, represent the disease to the attentive and observant physician as fully as may be requisite to effect a cure.

Hahnemann goes on to say: "From this incontrovertible truth, that beyond the totality of the symptoms there is nothing discoverable in diseases by which they could make known the nature of the medicines they stand in need of, we ought naturally to conclude that there can be *no other indication* whatever, than the *ensemble* of the symptoms in each individual case, to guide us in the choice of a remedy."

We shall conclude this article by another quotation from the Organon, in which some general considerations are presented in reference to diseases, which will be read, we hope, by laymen with care and profit.

"The diseases of mankind resolve themselves into two classes. The first are rapid operations of the vital power departed from its natural condition, which terminate in a shorter or longer period of time, but are always of moderate duration. These are called *acute* diseases. The others, which are less distinct and often almost imperceptible on their first appearance, seize upon the organism, each according to his own peculiar manner, and remove it by degrees so far from the state of health that the automatic vital energy which is destined to support the latter, and which is called vital power, cannot resist but in a useless and imperfect manner; and not being potent enough to extinguish them herself, she is compelled to allow them to grow until, in the end, they destroy the organism. The latter are known by the appellation of *chronic* diseases, and are produced by infection from a chronic miasm.

As to acute diseases, they may be classed under two distinct heads. The first attack single individuals, and *arise* from some pernicious cause to which they have been exposed. Immoderate excess in either eating or drinking, a want of necessary ailment, violent impressions of physical agents, cold, heat, fatigue, &c., or mental excitement, are the most frequent causes. But for the most part they depend upon the occasional aggravation of a latent psoric affection, which returns to its former sleep and insensibility when the acute affection is not too violent, or when it has been cured in a prompt manner. The others attack a plurality of individuals at once, and develop themselves here and there (*sporadically*) beneath the sway of meteoric and tel-

luric influence, of whose action but few persons are at the moment susceptible. Nearly approaching to these are those which attack many individuals at the same time, arising from similar causes, and exhibiting symptoms that are analogous (*epidemics*); and usually become *contagious* when they act upon close and compact masses of human beings. These maladies or fevers are each of a distinct nature, and the individual cases which manifest themselves being all of the same origin, they invariably place the patients every where in one identical morbid state, but which, if abandoned to themselves, terminate in a very short space of time, either by a cure or death. War, inundations, and famine, frequently give rise to these diseases, but they may likewise result from *acute miasms*, which always reappear beneath the same form, for which reason they are designated by particular names; some of which attack man but once during life, such as the small-pox, measles, whooping-cough, the scarlet fever of Sydenham, mumps, &c., and others which may seize him repeatedly, such as the plague, yellow-fever, Asiatic cholera, &c.

The Homœopathic physician, who does not share the prejudices of the ordinary schools of medicine—that is to say, who does not, like them, fix the number of those fevers to a certain few, forbidding nature to produce any others, nor affixes particular names to them in order that he may follow this or that mode of treatment—he does not acknowledge the appellations of jail fever, bilious fever, typhus, putrid fever, pituitous fever, but cures all these diseases individually by a treatment suited to the symptoms they present.

Under the class of chronic diseases, we have unfortunately to reckon those factitious maladies of universal propagation, arising from the long continued administration, by the allopathists, of violent heroic medicines in large and increasing doses, from the abuse of calomel, corrosive sublimate, mercurial ointments, nitrate of silver, iodine and its ointment, opium, valerian, bark and quinine, digitalis purpurea, hydrocyanic acid, sulphur and sulphuric acid, long continued evacuates, venesection, leeches, setons, issues, &c. by which the vital power is either unmercifully weakened, or, if it be not indeed exhausted, gradually becomes so abnormally altered, (in different manners, according to the particular medicine administered,) that, in order to support life against such hostile and destructive assaults, it must effect changes in the organization, and either deprive this or the other part of its sensibility or irritability, or exalt these properties to excess, produce dilatation or contraction, relaxation or induration\* of parts, or

\* When, at length, the patient sinks, his physician who had prescribed such a course of treatment, takes care, on a *post mortem* examination, to exhibit to the disconsolate relatives, these internal organic derangements (which are due to his own unskillfulness) as the original and incurable complaint.

else totally destroy them, and here and there induce organic changes, both internally and externally, (namely, as it were, the interior and exterior of the body,) in order to protect the organization against the entire destruction of life, from the reiterated assaults of such hostile and destructive influences.

The most distressing and unmanageable chronic maladies affecting the human system, are those which have been superinduced by the unskillful treatment of the allopathists, (in modern times most injurious,) and I regret to say, that when they have attained a considerable height, it would seem as if no remedy could be discovered or devised for their cure.

The Dispenser of all good has granted us aid, by means of Homœopathy, for the removal of natural diseases only; but those which have been superinduced by a false art—those in which the human organism has been maltreated and crippled, both internally and externally, by means of pernicious medication, the vital power itself, provided, indeed, if it be not already too much enfeebled by such assaults, and can employ, uninterruptedly, whole years to the serious process, the vital power must remove those factitious diseases, (assisted by appropriate aid directed against a chronic miasm, which probably still lies concealed within). An art of healing, intended for re-establishing to their normal condition those countless morbid changes of the body, which are often induced by the mischievous arts of allopathy, does not, nor cannot exist.

The name chronic is very improperly applied to those diseases which attack persons who are constantly exposed to baleful influences from which they might have screened themselves—persons who constantly make use of aliments or drink that are hurtful to the system—who commit excesses that are injurious to health—who are every moment in want of the articles necessary to support life—who inhabit unwholesome countries, and, above all, marshy places—who live in cellars and other confined dwellings—who are deprived of air and exercise—who are exhausted by immoderate labour of the mind or body—who are consumed by perpetual ennui, &c. These diseases, or rather these privations of health, brought on by individuals, disappear of themselves by a mere change of regimen, provided there is no chronic miasm in the body, but they cannot be called chronic diseases.

The true natural *chronic* diseases are those which are produced by a chronic miasm, making continual progress in the body when no specific curative remedy is opposed to them, and which, notwithstanding all imaginable care both with regard to the regimen of the body and mind, never cease tormenting the patient with an accumulation of miseries that endure till the latest period of his existence. These are the greatest and most frequent scourges of the human species, since the most robust constitution, the best regulated life, and the greatest energy of the vital powers, are insufficient to extinguish them.

(To be Continued.)

## LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

We give, from Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, "*some of the innumerable cases of malpractice in the treatment of the itch, which the observing physicians have left us.*" These ailments, the result of a suppression of the cutaneous eruption, are either acute or chronic, and are as various as the peculiarities of the different constitutions, and the different modes in which they are affected by external influences.

A short review of the evil consequences resulting from the suppression of the cutaneous eruption of the itch, may be found in a dissertation "*De Damno ex Scabie Repulsa*, Hal. 1750," p. 15—18, by the experienced and honest Lewis Christian Juncker. He observed that in young people of a sanguine temperament, this suppression was followed by a tubercular phthisis; and that generally, in persons of a sanguine temperament, it was followed by hemorrhoids, colic, with bloody stools, and gravel; in persons of a sanguine-choleric temperament, by swelling of the inguinal glands, stiffening of the joints, and malignant ulcers; in fat persons, by a suffocating catarrh and tabes mucosa, inflammatory fever, acute pleurisy and inflammation of the lungs. He says that in opening the bodies of such patients, the lungs have been found indurated and interspersed with sacculated cavities full of pus; that other indurations have likewise been discovered, together with swelling of the bones, and ulcers; that in persons of a phlegmatic temperament, this suppression of the cutaneous eruption produced in most cases dropsy; that the menses were delayed, and that they were changed to hemoptysis in case the eruption had been suppressed during their flow; that persons of a melancholy temperament became sometimes deranged, and that in pregnant women, having this temperament, the fœtus was killed; that the suppression of the eruption sometimes caused sterility; that the secretion of milk in nursing women was arrested; that the menses ceased to flow before women had attained the proper age; and that in older women the uterus became affected with carcinoma, accompanied with deep-seated, burning pains, and general emaciation.

His experience has been frequently confirmed by the observations of others. From this suppression of the cutaneous eruption of the itch have resulted:



*Asthma.*\*—A man, 30 or 40 years old, had been affected with the itch a long time ago, which had been removed by ointments. Ever since then he became more and more asthmatic. Breathing became finally very short and painful, even when he was perfectly quiet. In breathing there was a sibilant sound, but little cough. He was directed to take an injection of squills, 16 grains, and the same drug internally in the form of a powder, 3 grains. But, by a mistake, he swallowed the 16 grains. He was in danger of losing his life. He had immense nausea and retching. But the itch coming out again in abundance on his hands, feet, and on the whole body, the asthma disappeared at once.

A man of 32 years had the itch removed by sulphur ointment, in consequence of which he suffered the most violent asthma for eleven months. The eruption was at last restored on the 23rd day.

A student caught the itch when he was about going to a dance. To be able to do this, he had the itch removed as soon as possible by a sulphur ointment. Soon after he was attacked with such a vehement asthma that it was impossible for him to take breath except with his head raised; during the attack he was almost suffocating. After having thus wrestled with death for an hour, he threw up little pieces of a cartilaginous substance; this gave him some ease for a time. Having returned to Osterode, his home, he suffered for two years of this disease. The attack came on at least ten times each day. His physician, Beireis, was not even able to give him the slightest relief.

A boy of 13 years had been affected with tenia ever since his childhood. His mother having removed it by an ointment, he had 8 or 10 days afterwards a violent attack of asthma and of acute pain in the limbs, back and knee, which only disappeared a month after, when the itch broke out all over his body.

Tenia capitis was cured in a little girl by purgatives and other internal remedies. The child was then attacked with dyspnoea, cough and great lassitude. The child speedily recovered her health as soon as the remedies were discontinued, and the tenia disappeared.

A boy of five years had the itch. It was re-

moved by an ointment, whereupon he was seized with great melancholy and cough.

Tenia capitis having been removed by the application of almond oil, there came on great weariness in all the limbs, headache on one side, want of appetite, asthma, waking up in the night from an attack of catarrhal suffocation, violent rhonchus and sibilus in the chest, convulsive torsions of the limbs, as though he were in articulo mortis, and hematuria. Upon the tenia reappearing, he recovered from all these ailments.

A girl of three years old had been affected with the itch for some weeks, which was removed by an ointment. The next day the child was attacked with a suffocating catarrh, rhonchus, dumbness, coldness of the whole body; she recovered as soon as the itch came out again.

A girl of 12 years old had her itch removed by an ointment, whereupon she was attacked with an acute fever, hooping-cough, asthma and swelling, and afterwards pleurisy. Six days later she took some internal medicine containing sulphur. This brought the itch out again, and, with the exception of her swelling, all her ailments disappeared. However, after the lapse of 24 days the itch dried up again, which was followed by inflammation of the chest, pleurisy and vomiting.

*Hemoptysis and Consumption.*—A young man of 18 years had the itch removed by a black-looking wash. A few days after, he was seized with chills and heat, weariness, anguish, headache, nausea, violent thirst, cough, difficult breathing; he spit blood in coughing, he began to talk delirious, his face became lead-coloured and emaciated, the urine looked blood-red, without sediment.

In a young man of 18 years, whose itch had been removed by a mercurial ointment.

The itch disappeared of itself, and was succeeded by a lingering fever and fatal expectoration of pus; the left lung was found full of pus.

A robust-looking candidate for the ministry, wishing to free himself from his old itch on account of being obliged to preach in a few days, covered himself with an itch-ointment in the morning. In a few hours he was attacked with anxiety, short breathing, and tenesmus, and died immediately after noon; on opening the body the whole lungs were seen filled with liquid pus.

*General Dropsy.*—Innumerable cases of such dropsy may be found in a vast number of

\* The names of the authors, from whose works these cases are extracted, are given by Hahnemann.—See "*Chronic Diseases.*"

authors, among whom I shall simply refer to J. D. Fick. He mentions a case of itch that, having been suppressed by mercurial ointment, produced dropsy. This was only alleviated by the reappearance of the dropsy.

The author of *Epidemion*, which is attributed to Hippocrates, has been the first to mention, in No. 4, of the fifth book, the sad result which has been alluded to in the preceding paragraph. An Athenian was seized with a violently itching eruption, which was not unlike the eruption of lepra, and which extended over the whole body, and especially the genital organs. The eruption having been suppressed by warm baths upon the island of Melos, the patient died of subsequent dropsy.

*Swelling of the cervical glands.*—A youth of 14 years had the itch in June, 1761. It was suppressed by means of a gray ointment. In consequence of this suppression, his parotid glands swelled considerably. The swelling of the left disappeared of itself, but the right became enormously enlarged, and, towards August, painful. All the cervical glands were swollen. The large ones on the outside felt hard and knotty; but on the inside there was an obtuse pain, especially during night; moreover, he suffered of difficult breathing and swallowing. All attempts at causing the glands to suppurate, remained fruitless; they grew so large that the patient finally died of suffocation in the year 1762.

*Inflammation of the eyes.*—A girl had a violent eruption of the itch on her legs, together with large ulcers in the bend of the knee. Being attacked with the small-pox, the itch was suppressed. This suppression induced a moist inflammation of the white of the eye and the eye-lids, which lasted for two years, and was accompanied with itching and suppuration of the lids, and a sensation of dark bodies floating before the eyes. After this she put on for three days woollen stockings having been worn by a child affected with the itch. On the third day a fever broke out, with dry cough, dyspnoea, and an inclination to vomit. Next day the fever and the symptoms in the chest abated. Sweat broke out, which increased until erysipelas appeared on both legs, which became true itch on the day following. The eyes improved.

*Ulcers.*—A young man of 16 years having lost his itch, which he had had for some time, ulcers broke out on the legs.

A quack gave a student an ointment against

the itch. It disappeared, but an ulcer formed in the mouth, which could not be cured.

A student who had been afflicted with the itch, suppressed it by an ointment. The suppression was followed by ulcers on the arms and legs, with glandular swellings in the axilla. The ulcers having been cured by external remedies, he was attacked with asthma, then with dropsy, and he finally died.

*Fever.*—A child of one year had for some time tenia and an eruption upon the face, which disappeared. A little while after, the child was seized with heat, cough and diarrhoea. Health was restored, when the tenia reappeared.

A woman of 43 years suppressed the dry itch, with which she had been afflicted for a long time, by an ointment of mercury and sulphur. The suppression was followed by pain below the ribs of the right side, weariness in all her limbs, heat and feverish irritation. After having used diaphoretics for six days, large itch vesicles broke out over her whole body.

Two young men, who were brothers, suppressed the itch by the same remedy. They lost all appetite, were attacked with dry cough, lingering fever, emaciation, and stupor, and would have died, if the eruption had not come out again.

A journeyman purser, who was told to make some kind of embroidery, freed himself from his itch by lead ointment. The itch had scarcely died away, when he was seized with chills, heat, asthma, and rattling cough, which caused his death by suffocating him on the fourth day.

A man of 30 years, of a healthy and robust constitution, was affected with the itch. He removed it, and was afterwards attacked with catarrhal fever and an immense sweat, from which he recovered very slowly. All on a sudden he was again attacked with another fever without any perceptible cause. The attacks began with anxiety and headache, and continued increasing with heat, quick pulse and morning sweat. These symptoms were combined with great sinking of strength, talking delirious, anxious tossing about and groaning, breathing with suffocation. In spite of all medicines, the disease ended in death.

A woman of 30 years had for a long time pain in the joints and a considerable eruption of itch; she removed it by an ointment. This was followed by fever, with violent heat, thirst



and violent headache, combined with talking delirious, immense asthma, tumefaction of the body, and great distension of the abdomen. Six days after the breaking out of the fever she was dead. The abdomen contained only much air; the stomach, which was replete with air, filled up half the abdomen.

A man whose tenia had been suppressed by cold, was seized with a malignant fever and vomiting, eight days after the suppression; at last hiccup came on and the patient died on the ninth.

In the same article, Morgagni quotes the case of a man affected with porrigo on the arms and other parts, which he removed by means of a shirt fumigated with sulphur. He was immediately seized with drawing pains in the whole body, and fever, which prevented him from resting in the night, or from stirring from his place in day time. Tongue and fauces were also affected with the malady. With much trouble the eruption was brought out again upon the skin, and he recovered.

In a young merchant, the suppression of the itch was suddenly followed by such a hoarseness that he was unable to utter a loud syllable; this was followed by dry asthma, loathing of food, violent cough, which tormented him, especially during the night, and robbed him of sleep; excessive and badly smelling night sweats, and finally death, in spite of all medical treatment.

A mayor of sixty years had the itch, which caused him much suffering, especially in the night. He used many remedies against it in vain. A mendicant at last taught him a remedy said to be infallible, composed of the *Olium lauro-cerasi*, pear; but immediately after, he was seized with violent chills, then heat over the whole body, vehement thirst, panting breathing, sleeplessness, violent trembling in the whole body, and great lassitude; he expired on the fourth day.

*Vertigo*.—A count, 57 years had been affected with dry itch for three years. The itch having been suppressed, he apparently enjoyed good health for two years, with the exception of attacks of vertigo, which increased to such an extent that on one occasion he would have fallen to the floor if he had not been caught. This occurred after a meal. He was covered with a cold clammy sweat, his limbs trembled, all parts of the body had the appearance of being dead; he frequently vomited sour substances. The attack came on a second time six weeks after. It then came on every month

for three months in succession. He retained his senses, but the attack were followed by heaviness in the head and a sort of stupefaction such as is consequent upon intoxication. At last the attack came on every day, although the violence of the attacks had abated. He was not permitted to read, or to think; to turn quickly, or to stoop; he was also affected with sadness, sighing, and melancholy thoughts.

*Epilepsy with vertigo*.—A woman of 36 years had used mercurial ointment for the suppression of the itch; the consequence was that her menses became irregular, and were often interrupted for ten or fifteen weeks; moreover she was constipated. Four years ago, being pregnant, she was seized with vertigo; while standing or walking she fell to the floor when an attack came on. In the sitting position she retained her senses during an attack; she was able to speak, to eat, and to drink. When the attack came on there was a sensation of crawling and formication in the left foot, which terminated in the foot being violently raised up and down. The attacks gradually deprived her of her senses, and on a journey, in a carriage, she was attacked with real epilepsy, which returned three times during the winter. During these attacks she was unable to speak; the thumbs were not clenched, but there was foam at the mouth. The sensation of formication in the left foot announced the attack; when this sensation had reached the pit of the stomach, the fit came on. A woman removed this epilepsy by means of five powders: after this the vertigo reappeared with much greater violence than before: this too began with a sensation of crawling in the left foot, which rose to the pit of the stomach; this sensation was combined with great anxiety and fear, as though she fell from a height; she then became speechless, lost her senses, and the limbs were convulsively agitated. Even between the attacks her feet now are extremely painful to the slightest touch, like boils. Moreover, she has a violent pain and heat in the head, and her memory is gone.

*Convulsions*.—A girl of 17 years was affected with tenia, which disappeared of itself. After this she constantly had heat in the head and attacks of headache. Sometimes she suddenly started up as if by fright, and while waking she had convulsions, especially of the arms and hands; oppression in the pit of the stomach, consequent upon constriction of the chest; whining, then came on convulsions and startings of the limbs.

*Epilepsy.*—A young man of 18 years suppressed his itch by means of a mercurial ointment. Two months after, he was seized all on a sudden with convulsions attacking all the limbs of his body; they were accompanied with painful constriction of the chest and neck, coldness of the limbs and great weakness. On the fourth day epilepsy came on, with foam at the mouth and strange contortion of the limbs. The fits ceased the moment the itch broke out again.

A youth of 18 years had fits of epilepsy after having suppressed the itch by mercurial ointment a few weeks before. The fits returned in four weeks, about new moon.

A boy of 7 years was attacked with epilepsy. The parents were unwilling to admit that it came from suppressed itch. The mother at last confessed to the carefully inquiring physician that the boy had had a few itch vesicles on the soles of the feet, which had soon yielded to lead ointment; but there had been no other eruption on any part of the body. The physician considered this, and correctly so, the cause of it.

Two children were freed from epilepsy by the eruption of moist tenia; the fits however returned as soon as the tenia had been suppressed.

A young man of 20 years had his itch suppressed by means of a purge. In consequence of this suppression he suffered for two years the most violent convulsions, until the itch was brought out again by birch-juice.

A young man of seventeen years suppressed his itch; he was of a robust constitution and had a sound understanding. After the suppression of the itch, three years ago, he was first attacked with hemoptysis, then with epilepsy, which grew worse by medicine, so that he had two attacks in an hour. A surgeon procured him relief for four weeks, by bleeding and medicines. But soon after the fits returned during a nap, and he had two or three attacks every night, accompanied with an intense cough and a suffocating catarrh, especially during the night; with all this he threw up a fetid liquid. He was obliged to keep his bed. At last he had ten fits during the night and eight during the day; the fits were caused by taking much medicine. Nevertheless the thumbs were never clenched during an attack, nor was there any foam at the mouth. His memory is now weakened. The fits came on a little before the time of the meals. During the nightly attacks, he remains in the deepest sleep without waking up. In the morning he

feels bruised all over. The only indication of a coming fit is his rubbing the nose and drawing up the left foot, after which he suddenly falls.

## DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

### TREATMENT.—EXTERNAL REMEDIES.

[Continued from Page 232.]

"Daily observation demonstrates the utility of external remedies in the treatment of Chronic inflammations of the skin. (We cannot conceal from ourselves something of a secret disinclination to attack these affections, the disappearance of which *may be succeeded by more or less serious symptoms*) The ancients often made use of them, but it was almost always only after the exhibition of one or two cathartics. It must be owned that in a multitude of chronic inflammations of the skin, the local affection of the integuments is nothing more than one of the conditions of the disease, and that recoveries after simple local treatment are commonly incomplete.

"Some external remedies, such as the acids, the nitrate of silver, actual cautery, &c., have a mere local effect, whilst the others are followed quickly *or at a later period* by phenomena which result from the absorption of the substance applied to the surface of the body. *The salivation that follows the inunction of mercury; the emaciation observed after the protracted use of iodated baths or unguents; the increase of muscular strength from the sulphurous bath; the colic and paralysis that result from the application of lead to abraded surfaces; the pains in the bladder occasioned by blisters, &c.; bear witness to these secondary effects, and to their importance.*

"Cold baths, and bathing in running streams in particular *are serviceable* in a great number of chronic inflammations which from their nature, their form, or their long continuance, have become *fixed* to particular places.

"Soothing fomentations, such as those prepared with decoction of marsh-mallows, beet root, &c.; likewise, cataplasms of crumb of bread, rice flour, &c., applied of a gentle warmth to circumscribed inflamed surfaces are *generally useful.*"

(Of bathing generally we shall treat in another place. Its use as above recommended is upon no other principle than that upon which other external applications are made, and the danger



from suppression of the eruptions is as much to be apprehended from its employment.)

"By anointing the body with oil, or grease of any kind, the skin is made softer and more pliant, and *pain, heat and itching are sometimes allayed*. It was long thought that each variety of greasy substance employed had peculiar curative virtues, and M. Chevreul has, in fact, ascertained that these bodies not only vary in the relative amounts of their constituent elements, but also by the presence or absence of certain accessory principles, *which possibly may be not without influence in a therapeutic point of view*.

"The advantages of *blood-letting* are less obvious in chronic than in active inflammatory diseases of the skin. Yet general as well as local bleedings by means of leeches and cupping glasses have, under my own eyes, had the *happiest effects* in many chronic cases.

"The *preparations of sulphur* have long and deservedly enjoyed an extensive reputation in the treatment of chronic diseases, of the skin, and especially of scabies. *Sulphurous waters* taken internally during one or several seasons modify the constitution materially, and perhaps accomplish a greater number of cures than any other means.

"After having been drunk for several days, some of these waters, *occasion a particular eruption, characterized by small acuminated and itchy spots, red blotches*, which appear first on the limbs, but, by and by, extend over nearly the whole surface of the body: a febrile paroxysm, accompanied by anorexia and great thirst sets in, the sleep is disturbed, and the urine is turbid and high colored.

"*Lotions and ointments of sulphur* have the same effects as the baths; their activity may be increased by the addition of different substances; such as *iodine and mercury*, which are more or less energetic in their actions, or diminished by others that seem to have little or no sensible effect on the economy, such as charcoal and sulphuret of antimony. These topical applications do not modify the constitution, and are generally less useful than the prolonged employment of sulphurous baths.

### HOMŒOPATHY IN WISCONSIN.

A distinguished pioneer of homœopathy, writes us from the above State, that a mighty change has been wrought in public sentiment in favor of the new practice. It is clear from what he says, that the people of that section

of our country are not influenced by high sounding *titles*, imported from abroad, which the enemies of truth in the healing art, are trying to make available in this city. He says further, "here error had enjoyed its quiet repose; no one had even questioned the pretences of allopathy. The old school Physicians were astounded at being so suddenly called into the field to meet an opponent, and to contest their position and pretensions. The standard of homœopathia has been erected in their midst; and our banner unfurled to the breeze. It floats triumphantly! Several allopaths have struck their colors, and marched into our ranks, and others are on the point of a surrender. As in other places the more intelligent of the people are its supporters.

"Your Journal should have an extensive circulation. I shall be able to send you a number of subscribers from among Physicians and laymen; and will soon give you a full account of the state and progress of homœopathia in Wisconsin."

### *To the Editors of the Am. Jour. of Homœopathy.*

The following Reply should have been published several weeks since, but it has for various reasons, been delayed; but particularly at the instance of Messrs. Radde and Hempel, who, during an interview at their solicitation, admitted the impropriety at the "Critical Review", and that it was written under the influence of improper excitement, and proposed to furnish a full and satisfactory *amende honorable*, to obliterate the stigma attempted to be cast upon the translator by the publication of the Review in question.

As some fifteen days have passed since the proffered *amende*, and although the same has since several times been repeated, it is as yet not forthcoming; we therefore feel compelled, in justice to ourselves, to take leave of Messrs. R. & H., and request that you will give the following "Reply" in your next number.

Feb. 16, 1847.

E. HUMPHREYS.

A brief relation of the events which led to the late criticism, will be necessary for a proper understanding of the subject. Some months since, while on a casual visit to New York, a copy of Jahr's Symptomen-Codex fell into our hands. A glance at its contents sufficed to convince us of its great value, and the inquiry was very naturally suggested, whether the American Homœopaths were soon to be in

possession of a translation of the work. We were informed that the prospect was extremely dubious. Mr. Radde had stated to some members of the profession that he should not publish the work at all, and to others, that he should not publish it until it had been translated in England, in order that he might correct their errors in a republication. Supposing the way clear, that we were infringing upon the rights of no one, but only exercising an undisputed privilege, we consented to undertake the translation of the work; realizing, at least in some degree, the labours and responsibilities of the undertaking, and only cheered by the reflection that we were rendering an important service to our sacred art, we made arrangements for the publication, and secured a copyright. No sooner, however, did Mr. Radde learn that a translation was in progress, than he manifested the most eager desire to arrest it. He now declared that he had paid, in part, Dr. Hempel to translate the work, and must publish it at all hazards. In succession, three several prospectuses were issued, in which Dr. Hempel, then Drs. Gray and Hempel, then Drs. Hull and Hempel were made, in turn, to figure as translators and editors, assisted by a number of gentlemen whose names were employed for the occasion. Regardless of the formidable clamor and bearing of the opposition, we prepared in haste some 30 odd pages for the press as a specimen number, to be distributed gratuitously, more as a specimen of the general style, size and type of the work, than as a critical translation, not designing to incorporate it into the body of the work without a critical revision, but to commence the first number, of 100 pages, at the beginning of the work, and then to supply such corrections or alterations as were necessary. Before the two sheets were fully prepared for the press, or the number issued, we discovered that a number of errors had crept into the work, and believing, from the spirit manifested by those interested in its suppression, that they would take any advantage, however ungenerous, we wrote to the publisher, advising him of those errors, supposing he would make no issue until after their correction.

While matters stood thus, before a single number had been perfected, sold, or issued for inspection, the work was sold to Mr. Radde, and a single sheet, with its acknowledged imperfections, was procured by Dr. Hempel, who sits down to the worthy task of making it

the subject of a criticism, four pages in length. How he can reconcile such a procedure with the courtesy due from a gentleman, we are at a loss to conceive. Under the circumstances, that being a private paper, having never been finished, offered for sale, or submitted for inspection, *and without the author's name attached*, he had no more right to make it the subject of a review, than any other private paper which had been filched from its owner. The criticism was entirely uncalled for; but, had he followed the dictates of common courtesy, and let the matter sleep, those very important objects had been unaccomplished—to rebuke the presumption of any individual who should dare to translate a page of Homœopathic literature, to warn any house of the peril of publishing any work upon the subject, and, finally, to disclose the profound abyss of his own genius and learning.

Having explained thus briefly the circumstances under which the review came into existence, we shall be prepared to appreciate its spirit and design. It professes to have been written only from a sacred sense of duty to the profession, whose members, it avers, have been insulted by the translation. How far the profession of such intentions is consistent with the foregoing, and all the facts in the case, we shall be better able to judge in the conclusion. The greater portion of the Review may be safely left to the good sense of those of its readers who think for themselves, as the venom is so apparent as to prove quite harmless. Now, we take it for granted that no inspiration is necessary for the translation of German symptomatology, no impenetrable mystery hangs about the subject, whatever the priests of the temple may profess, and that the records say what they mean, and mean what they say.

What will be thought of the candor of the Reviewer, if it shall appear that the very phrases and symptoms which are the subjects of his animadversions, and regarded as errors in our translation, are rendered in the same manner and words by himself, in his translation of the *Materia Medica*; yet this occurs in a number of instances. We give a few specimens:—

Review, page 2, line 17, reads: “*von unten herauf bis in der Brust*,” is rendered “from beneath upward in the chest,” by which we are given to understand that the chill is experienced in the chest, and that it commences in the lower and rises to the upper parts of the chest. The meaning in German, accord-



ing to Hahnemann, is, "that the chill come to the lower extremities, and ascends to the inner parts of the chest." Now turn to the *Materia Medica Pura*, translated by Dr Hempel, vol. i, page 19, symptom 450, and read how he translated the same symptom, when he is not animated by a holy zeal for the defence of the sacred art. We have, "from below upward as high as the interior of the chest." Comment is unnecessary.

Review, page 3, line 59, reads: "*schwappern*" is rendered by "waving;" it means "a shaking, as of a sail in a calm." The entire symptom reads, in our translation, "When urinating, sensation of wavering '*schwappern*' in the region of the bladder." In his translation, *Mat. Med.*, vol. i, page 12, symptom 219, we have: "When urinating, there is a slight sense as of swashing '*schwappern*' in the region of the bladder."

Review, page 4, line 33, reads: "*Knie die beim Gehen Knicken*," is rendered by "instability of the knees, which bend in walking;" it means, "which bend suddenly, give way as if they would break from weakness." *Mat. Medica*, vol. i, page 17, symptom 361, we have him rendering the same symptom by: "Want of firmness of the knees, especially one of them; the knee bends when walking." Besides, our translation reads, "which bend and totter in walking."

Review, page 3, line 23, reads: "*Licht sucht*" is rendered by "desire for light;" it means "photomania," the contrary of photophobia, and a most important affection of the organ of vision." Now Hahnemann's *Mat. Medica*, in German, reads: *Licht sucht oder Begierde in's Hitz zu sehen* (n 3, st.) which Dr. Hempel has translated, vol. i, page 9 symp. 83, Avidity for light; desire to look at bright light (a 3. h.) We need not add a word of comment to the above; it speaks volumes for the candor, honesty and probity of the Reviewer, who must have entertained the most exalted ideas of the intelligence of those for whom he wrote.

Review, page 2, line 10, reads: "*Empfindung von uebelriechend Athem*" is rendered by "perception of bad smelling breath," this is too obscure; the symptom is thus stated in the *Mat. Medica Pura*: "On waking he feels as if he imagines he has a badly smelling breath," &c. Now, whether "perception of bad smelling breath" or "feeling as if he imagines he has a badly smelling breath" is most obscure, we leave our readers to judge. For our part, we should be glad to be informed what sort of a feeling it was, to feel, as if we imagined, we had a badly smelling breath? This is, doubtless, perceiving the genius of a symptom, with a vengeance. Out upon such abominable nonsense—besides, the original says no such thing; it says simply, "perception of bad smelling breath," and those who read the *English language* will be at no great loss to comprehend the meaning.

Page 1, line 33, we have a notable criticism about the East wind, thus: "*Ostwind*" is translated by East wind; the translator should have stated in a note that the East wind in Germany is uniformly a dry wind, and that in

this country the West wind corresponds to the East wind in Germany."

The above merely states what every person of observation knows to be incorrect, as in by far the largest portion of the country, the West wind, so far from being uniformly dry, is the source from whence the prevailing storms arise; while, in many localities, the East wind is the same dry, cold air as in Germany. The West wind of this country no more corresponds to the East wind of Germany, than the Doctor's quibblings correspond to the character of a dignified Review.

Review, page 1, line 30, reads: "The term '*wallung*' is translated by 'ebullition;' the proper meaning is, 'rush of blood'—subject to rushes of blood." Here, and in a number of instances which follow, we are compelled to differ from Dr. Hempel. The term "*wallung*," according to any lexicographer, is boiling, ebullition, effervescence, orgasm, agitation, excitement, &c., but not "rush," *rauschen*; besides, the Doctor is too good a pathologist to give currency, by a single expression, to the idea that there is an actual "rush of blood" in congestion, more especially when he must pervert the original to do it.

If there be a difference between "instability of the ligaments" and "want of firmness of the ligaments," it consists in the former being the more concise and less likely to be misunderstood than the latter.

The difference between "frightened waking" and "waking as with a start in a fright" is, that the latter is expressed in just six more words than the former. So of "*Unaufgelegt-heit*," which we render "ill-humour," the meaning of which, he says, should be, "Want of disposition to do anything, to talk to anybody, &c." and thus we might pass on, showing that, in numerous instances, the difference between his rendering and our own consists in the unnecessary prolixity of the former, and the unbridled license he takes with the text. Now we hold it to be a cardinal virtue in any work which is to be studied, one for whose absence many excellencies will not atone, that it be concise, every redundancy avoided, and as much as possible placed at once under the eye of the student.

Again—Review, page 2, line 51, reads: "*Musik die wehmüthig stimmt*" is rendered by "music which agrees with the sorrows;" the true meaning is, "music which disposes him to sadness." The entire symptom reads, "Insupportableness of sounds and of music which agrees with the sadness." Now the verb "*stimmen*" signifies, to tune, to agree, accord, congrue, &c., and may signify to disperse. But how could the music, which was *insupportable*, dispose one to sadness? The absurdity of the thing is manifest.

Review, page 3, line 30, reads: "*Als ob etwas vor das Gehör gefallen wäre*" is rendered by "as if something were placed before the hearing," &c. The above is untrue and unjust, as it does not give the entire symptom. The text reads, *Verstopfungsgefühl der Ohren, oder Verfall vor das Gehör*, which we render "Sensation as if the ears were stopped, or

something placed before the hearing." He translates the symptom, vide *Mat. Med.*, vol. i, p. 9, "Sense as of something lying against the ear."

Review, page 3, line 1, reads: "'*Drehen*' is translated 'turning;'" it is simply "vertigo." Consult any or all the lexicons in the country, and *Drehen* is turning, to turn; besides, to have repeated the word vertigo would have been an unmeaning tautology, as well as perversion of the text, and, had we written it vertigo, the Reviewer would have found no words adequate to express his astonishment at our ignorance of a common German word.

Review, page 2, line 22, reads: "'Frost' is always rendered by 'chill;'" it means "chilliness," the English term chill corresponds to the German "*Frost-schauer*," "attack of chilliness with shuddering."

How such a statement can be deliberately put forth, we are at a loss to conceive. The truth is, that "*Frost*" is the same generic term in German as Chill in English, each having their varied qualifying particles; *Frost-schauer* being shivering chill, &c. But to settle all controversy, and drive the thing home, turn to the same work, *Jahr's Symptomen-Codex*, Vol. iii, page 330, where we have chapters headed with "*Frost (schauer und Kälte) nach Art und Beschaffenheit*:" Chill (shivering and coldness) according to its nature and circumstances; page 333, *Frost (Kälte und Schauer) nach den Theilen, die besonders ergriffen sind*: Chill (coldness and shivering) according to the parts which are especially affected, &c.; page after page is headed with Frost, and in repeated instances does he formally explain it as above, by coldness and shivering. But turn to vol. i, p. 298, we have: *Beim Frost (schauer der Kälte)*: During the chill (shivering or coldness): *Nach dem Froste*: after the chill, &c. &c. But it were a waste of words and patience to follow such tergiversations and misstatements farther.

With respect to the use of the word "*Kreuz*," sacrum or sacral region, as we translate it, and small of the back or loins as he indifferently renders it, we shall continue to prefer it to the very indefinite, not to say unscientific, one of small of the back, more especially as we are supported in it by the best authorities.

"*Drucken*" we shall continue to render by "pressure," instead of aching, as the Reviewer would have us, as we see no very tangible reason why we should coin a new meaning for a very common word.

Review, page 2, line 45, reads: "'*Gelinder Schweiß*' is rendered by 'clammy sweat;'" it means "slight incipient perspiration."

If the reader can be astonished at anything, by this time he will be so, to learn that the above is a falsehood out of whole cloth. "*Gelinder Schweiß*" is rendered by us "slight sweat," as any individual may convince himself, by looking at the sheet.

But it is unnecessary to follow the distortions and wanderings of the Reviewer far-

ther. We have shown that the Review was not only entirely uncalled for, but a breach of the commonest civilities of life; subserving no purpose but self-glorification, and wanton defamation of another's reputation. That the symptoms, which he has so correctly translated in his *Materia Medica* as to "defy criticism," when rendered in the same words by ourselves become gross errors, and an insult to the profession. That, in many instances, his criticisms and corrections are in direct contradiction to lexicographers and authorities, which seem, indeed, to be matters of small moment with him, and, at the touch of his talismanic pen, a word is made to assume any or every hue and shade of meaning. Surely the Reviewer must have drawn largely upon the ignorance and gullibility of the profession, to attempt to palm off upon them, for truth, such a tissue of egotism and misrepresentation. That a few errors, and some of them sufficiently important to justify correction, are to be found in our translation we readily admit, and that errors as grave are to be found in any volume of Dr. Hempel's translations, can readily be shown.

One who has been for years in the habit of palming such absurdities as the following upon the profession, under the dignified title of translations, should be rather cautious in his criticisms of others. Take, for instance, *Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases*, vol. ii, p. 54, where we have the following: "Twice a diarrhœa, in the evening; the stools at last become clotty (2, a.)" two diarrhœas in one evening, appearing two days after taking the medicine; whether they appeared simultaneously or in succession, we are not informed. Page 53, same volume, we have: "Loud grumbling and shrieking in the abdomen, without pain." Here, under the potent influence of the drug, the abdomen not only shrieks, but loudly shrieks, and without pain. Page 62, same volume, we have: "When walking fast, sensation as of cutting and pressure in the chest; relieved by sitting, a fortnight (a 20, d.)" Here the cutting and pressure in the chest comes on at 20 days after commencing the proving, and is relieved by sitting a fortnight. Patient prover that. See also Vol. v, p. 283, lines 13 and 14: "Groaning sensation in the testes and genital organs." Also Vol. 2, p. 217, l. 25: "Violent itching in the ribs of the scrotum"—so it is at length discovered that the genital organs possess the



faculty of groaning; and that the scrotum has ribs.

We have hardly words whereby to express our high obligations to the Doctor for this scintillation of his genius, as we acknowledge that he is the first to make the discovery, that the genitals were either respiratory or vocal organs, or encased in ribs.

But we forbear—and, while we thank the Doctor for his “warning,” we hurl it back with the contempt it merits.

F. HUMPHREYS.

We have received two copies of *Bönninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket Book*, edited by A. H. Okie, M. D., and published by Otis Clapp, Boston; Smith, 488 Broadway, New York; C. L. Rademacher, Philadelphia.

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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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VOL. I.

New York, Saturday, March 6, 1847.

NO. 22.

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DRS. KIRBY AND SNOW, EDITORS.

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DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1847.

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## PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

It has been asserted, by many of those who have not examined its claims, that the practice of Hahnemann should not be dignified by the title of a *system*. Yet it has all the essential qualities of a system, to which no other

can lay claim. Throughout all its parts, it is an arrangement founded upon one principle. This being so, it is appropriate to say, *the system of Hahnemann*. So completely is it entitled to this name, that any deviation in practice from the one principle upon which it is founded, would render it inefficient and unsafe. It is now established, that no cure of disease proper, takes place, but by virtue of the law which is the basis of this system; that is, "that only such remedies are capable of effecting a real and permanent cure as affect the healthy organism in a manner similar to the natural disease." This system has no fellowship with what is termed *eclecticism*, so very fashionable at this period, but which is, as we shall have occasion hereafter to show, the most refined quackery ever promulgated. Neither does it or can it harmonize with *any* measures in the treatment of diseases, not strictly in accordance with the law of cure *similia similibus curantur*. No one can treat diseases Homœopathically with skill, who does not perceive, comprehend, and follow this law of cure. No matter what means are employed, if cures take place, it must be upon this principle; ample proof of which, is before the profession, and the world. No physician of any school, who has effected a real cure of disease, but might see, if he would, that it was by virtue of the above law, and none other.

Experiments, a thousand times repeated in almost every part of the civilized world, have fully established another essential truth; that attenuated drugs are most fit to respond to the law. This is a branch of the system of Hahnemann which must not be dispensed with in practice. This brings us to the attenuation of drugs and small doses—the stumbling-block in the way of many, to confidence in Homœopathy. Why did Hahnemann so strongly contend for small doses? Why do his disciples do so? It is not because they are popular;—



they were not so in his day;—neither are they so in this our day. Hundreds and thousands would embrace Homœopathy without delay, if the small doses could be given up. But *experience* has taught, that the system of Hahnemann would fail—it could not be successfully carried out. They can no more be dispensed with, than medicine in the treatment of disease.

The real objection to small doses does not lie in their inefficiency, but in the prejudice of education. They are not contrary to experience in other things; but opposers have not fairly tried them. To test the practice of Hahnemann, the rules he laid down should be observed with great care; for in our own knowledge, instances have occurred, where the expected results, were not obtained, because of inattention to what was regarded as of small or no importance:—for example, administer the 3d attenuation of a medicine, and allow the patient to smell the tincture of camphor, most likely no effect would follow, as the camphor would antidote it. Often, very often, is the physician disappointed in the result of his prescription by the kind and well meant attentions of friends of the sick, who prepare for them food, nicely spiced; and in a variety of forms, will things be done by attendants, quite unknown to the physician, the effect of which, may be, to counteract the curative action of the medicine. Of course Homœopathy will be blamed for every mischief—no matter who interferes with her work.

(To be Continued.)

### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

As will have been seen from the preceding articles, Hahnemann regards itch as a constitutional disease—the result of a specific miasmatic poison, and not a local disease. He says:

“Just as condemnable appears to me the reasoning of the allopathic physicians, that the itch is a mere cutaneous affection with which the internal organism has nothing to do, and that the best way of healing it, is to remove it by some external application; whereas the only natural way to remove the external eruption, is, to cure first the internal psoric disease, upon the principle ‘*cessante causa, cessat effectus*.’

“As long as the eruption is yet existing upon the skin, the psoric disease exhibits itself

in its simple and most natural integrity, and may be cured in the easiest, quickest and safest manner.

“But as soon as the internal disease has been deprived of its vicarious symptom, the psoric miasm is forced to spread over the most delicate parts of the internal organism and to develop its secondary symptoms.

“How necessary it is, carefully to avoid every removal of the cutaneous eruption by means of external influences, and never to attempt any other but internal cure of the psoric disease, may be inferred from the fact, that the most painful chronic sufferings which had followed the removal of the psoric eruption by means of external applications, and which frequently had lasted already for years, are often hushed, for a time, by the mere re-appearance of the psoric eruption upon the skin consequent upon powerful revolutions in the organism.

“It is therefore a self-evident truth that the cure of the internal psoric disease by means of the anti-psoric remedies, can only be accomplished *in an easy manner*, as long as the primitive eruption still exists upon the skin; and, on the other hand, we may infer from the above remarks, that the method used by allopathic physicians of removing the eruption from the skin by external applications, is just as pernicious as the removal of this eruption by means of the appropriate homœopathic internal remedy is rational and beneficent. By this latter method the whole internal disease, together with its vicarious symptom, is effectually, thoroughly, and permanently banished from the organism, and that host of horrible secondary affections, with which the patient is invariably assailed after the violent external removal of the psoric eruption, is destroyed in its very germ.

“The excuse of which the private physician (for the hospital physician has no excuse) avails himself, is quite delusive. He says that ‘not knowing when, where, and from what person the infection has been caught, he cannot be sure whether the few vesicles which appear upon the skin are really the itch, and that he cannot, therefore, be made responsible for the evil consequences which may attend the suppression of those vesicles by means of lead-water, or ointments of zinc and mercury; and that rich parents desired this suppression to be accomplished as speedily as possible.’

“Such an excuse cannot be regarded; for

every *conscientious* physician ought to know that *no eruption whatsoever* ought to be removed from the skin by external applications. The human skin never produces an eruption out of itself; it never assumes a morbid condition without being invited, or rather, obliged to do so, by the abnormal activity of the whole organism. As every external eruption results from an abnormal activity of the whole organism, so ought the disappearance of that eruption from the skin to be the spontaneous result of the complete and radical cure of the internal disease by means of appropriate internal remedies. In this way the eruption often disappears sooner than by the use of external contrivances.

"But it is very different with the changes and maladies which occur on the surface of the body, not originating from any external violence, or merely from the consequences of some slight external injury. These owe their source to an internal affection. It is, therefore, equally absurd and dangerous to regard these diseases as symptoms that are purely local, and to treat them exclusively, or nearly so, by topical applications, as if they were surgical cases, in which manner they have been treated till the present day.

"These maladies have been considered as purely local, and, consequently, received the appellation of such, because they were looked upon as affections that were in a manner attached to the extreme parts in which the organism took little or no share, as if it was ignorant of their existence.\*

"The slightest reflection, however, will suffice to explain why an external malady (which has not been occasioned by an important external violence) cannot arise, continue, or much less grow worse, without some internal cause, the co-operation of the whole system, the latter, consequently, being diseased. It could never manifest itself if the general state of health was not immediately concerned, or if all the sensitive and irritable parts of the body did not participate. Its production would be impossible, if it did not result from some modification of the entire principle of life, so closely are the parts of the body connected with each other, and form so inseparable a whole in regard to feeling and action. No

eruption of the lips nor whitlow can take place without some internal derangement having been previously and simultaneously effected.

"All medical treatment of external diseases, that have arisen almost without any violence being exercised on the exterior of the body, ought, consequently, to have for its object, the annihilation and cure of the general malady under which the organism suffers, by internal remedies. There is no other safe mode of curing them radically.

"Every external treatment of a local symptom whose aim is to extinguish it on the surface of the body without curing the internal miasmatic disease—such, for example, as that of destroying a psoric eruption on the skin by means of ointments, healing up a chancre by the use of caustic, destroying the granulations of syccosis by ligature, excision, or the application of a hot iron—is not only useless but injurious. This pernicious method, in such general use at the present day, is the chief source of the innumerable chronic diseases (with or without names) that oppress the human race. This is the most criminal practice physicians can adopt, and it has notwithstanding been very generally practised till the present time, and taught, *ex cathedra*, as the only one."\*

## DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

[Continued from Page 244.]

"I have had ample opportunities of satisfying myself of the virtues of *artificial* sulphurous baths; but to secure their good effects, it is certainly necessary to regulate the temperature and the *duration* of these baths, not only by their manifest effects on the skin, *but by their influence* on the constitution. In a very great number of cases I have found that there were immense advantages to be derived from gradually increasing the time of remaining in the bath to the amount of even five or six hours.

"The *hot air bath* and *dry sulphurous fumigations*, tried in the treatment of skin com-

\* One of the many pernicious blunders of the old school.

\* For all the medicines which are directed to be given inwardly during the local treatment, serve only to aggravate the evil, since they possess no specific power to remove the entire disease, but assault and weaken the organism, and, in addition, inflict on other it chronic medicinal diseases.



plaints by Glauber and Lalouette, and brought forward anew with convenient modifications, by M. Gales, are now rendered easily and safely applicable by means of the improved apparatus of M. Darcet.

"Sulphurous fumigations are undeniably often serviceable in chronic eczema, but they are rarely available against certain forms of eruptive disease. They certainly weaken the patient more than sulphurous water baths; they also modify the constitution in a less durable manner, and more rarely accomplish perfect cures. These fumigations, too, sometimes irritate the skin further; they have been known to occasion syncope, a sense of suffocation, &c. It would be imprudent to attempt their uses without great discretion *among children, pregnant women, asthmatic persons, or in cases where there was any suspicion of tubercles in the lungs.*

"Pure sulphur is also prescribed internally, *especially by the vulgar*, as a purgative, or in the idea that it may be absorbed, and thus affect the constitution generally."

On the use of sulphur in skin affections—especially for the suppression of itch—Hahnemann makes the following observations; and the same principles are applicable to other eruptions, as they are merely external signs of an internal psora, which cannot be topically treated with propriety or safety.

"The oldest physicians used warm sulphur baths against the itch, as is the custom now. The eruption generally disappeared by these means. But subsequent ailments showed already then that the patients did not always recover. An Athenian, for instance, was attacked with anasarca, on account of having removed his itch by using the warm sulphur baths upon the island of Melos, (now Milo). He died of this disease 300 years before Celsus, as is reported by the author of the fifth book Epidemion, which is considered due to Hippocrates.

"Sulphur was never given internally, for the simple reason that neither the older nor the modern physicians understand that the itch is chiefly an internal disease.

"Modern physicians, too, never give sulphur only internally, because they do not regard the itch chiefly as an internal disease. They give sulphur internally, as a mere adjuvans of the external ointments, in frequently repeated doses of 10, 20, 30 grains, purging the patient and making it impossible to determine how far this excessive internal use of

sulphur had been either hurtful or useful; at least it was impossible that the whole psoric disease should ever be thoroughly cured by this treatment. The only object which was obtained by giving the sulphur as a purgative, was to facilitate the removal of the external eruption; but this removal was just as pernicious as when no sulphur at all had been taken internally. Such excessive doses of sulphur can never thoroughly cure a psoric disease, even though no ointment should have been used at all. Such excessive doses rouse the vital principle into a hostile attitude, and cause it to reject the sulphur altogether without having appropriated to itself the curative virtue of the drug; in some cases they even increase the disease or excite an altogether new disease in the system.

"Since experience teaches that the itch, even the recently formed itch, with the eruption existing upon the skin, cannot be cured by sulphur ointments used in combination with large quantities of sulphur taken internally, it may easily be conceived that, when the eruption has been thus violently removed from the skin, and the psoric disease has already pervaded all the recesses of the organism in the form of secondary chronic affections, these can much less be cured by powders of sulphur, by sulphur baths, by drinking sulphuretted mineral water, or any other water of this kind; in short, by the excessive use and repetition of sulphur, though it be a specific remedy against the itch. It is indeed true, that many patients appear to be freed, for a time, from the original psoric affection by the use of sulphur baths, (hence the multitude of patients affected with all sorts of chronic affections, who flock to the baths of Teplitz, Baden, Aix-la-Chapelle, Neundorf, Warmbrunn, &c.;) but they are not cured for all that; the sulphur may have occasioned a medicinal disease, which, for a time, may take the place of the natural disease, and is much less troublesome than this one; but the medicinal disease soon passing off again, the original disease returns, either with its original or with new and more troublesome symptoms, sometimes affecting the more delicate parts of the organism. The ignorant physician, on perceiving this change, rejoices at the primitive group of symptoms having, as he supposes, given place to a new disease, and persuades the patient that the renewed use of the baths will cure this new disease as well as it did the former; he knows not that this new

disease is a mere modification of the former symptoms, and is doomed to witness the sad result that the patient obtains much less relief from using the baths a second time, yea, that the repeated use of those baths positively aggravates the sufferings of the patient.

"I may, therefore, positively assert, that sulphur has done much injury in the hands of allopathic physicians; and that excessive use and frequent repetition have made this drug almost useless for the homœopathic physician in the treatment of those endless secondary psoric affections, for the cure of which allopathic doctors had employed it in vain."

### REFORM IN MEDICINE.

Since the introduction and favorable advance of Homœopathy, the leading minds in the medical profession have been compelled to review the theories and practices of the art as they have been taught and handed down from age to age. And this review has resulted in the avowed conviction, that the great principles which are to govern and establish the medical art remain yet to be established; and in the forced admission, that the application of heretofore mis-called principles, in medicine, is uncertain, generally useless, and often bad.

We intend to show, from recent writings of the prominent men in the profession—1st, That a reform is necessary; 2d, The means proposed to effect it; and 3d, To show that what is deemed so essential, and is so much desired by the profession to establish and perfect medicine as a science, Homœopathy is in possession of, and is earnestly urging upon the attention of the profession.

We shall, in the first place, give some extracts from the celebrated review of Homœopathy, Allopathy, &c., by John Forbes, M. D., editor of the "*British and Foreign Medical Review*," &c., to prove that a reform is needed and intended.

"But many of our readers we expect, will be of opinion that, in admitting what we have done, we are betraying the cause of legitimate medicine, and lending our aid to extend the heresy of Homœopathy. If such should be the result of our admissions, we cannot help it. We have only said what we believe to be true; and if what we believe is in reality the truth, the promulgation of it cannot lead to

evil. Truth is good. If the art of medicine, as we profess and practise it, cannot bear investigation, and shrinks before the light of truth, from whatsoever quarter it may come, it is high time that it should cease to be sanctioned and upheld by philosophers and honest men. If, on the contrary, it be true and good—even if it be only but partially true and moderately good—the stirring touch of inquiry and the stimulus of opposition cannot fail to benefit it in the end.

"But, such being our estimate of the character and powers of Homœopathy, on what principle can we explain the fact above admitted, that diseases have been cured and continue to be cured, alike under its ministration as under that of ordinary practice? *Is it, that ALLOPATHY is false also? Or is it, that, to obtain an explanation of the fact, we must pass by both, and fix on some THIRD POWER, coincident with both, yet belonging to neither?*

"We cannot give to these queries, as to the former, either a simple negative, or a simple positive reply. In answer to the first, we would say, that Allopathy is certainly *true*, in a limited sense, that is to say, it unquestionably possesses, to a certain extent, the power of curing diseases. It is, however, *not true*, in an absolute sense, or in the sense in which it is regarded by some, inasmuch as it does *not* cure a great proportion of the diseases it is supposed to cure. In answer to the second, we admit that there is a third power, common to or coincident with both, which, while it explains all the triumphs of Homœopathy, reduces those of Allopathy within much narrower limits than its more zealous votaries are wont to assign it: *this is THE POWER OF NATURE.*

"And here we must be permitted to enter into a little detail; as the placing this subject in its true light appears to us a matter of great importance, not merely in relation to the main object of the present discussion, but in its bearings on the subject of Practical Medicine generally, and especially on the momentous question of its improvement, or, if we may be allowed to say so, its REFORMATION, which we think is impending.

"But while we are thus exalting the powers of nature at the expense of Homœopathy, are we not, at the same time, laying bare the nakedness of our own cherished Allopathy? If it is nature that cures in Homœopathy, and if Homœopathy (as we have admitted) does thus cure, in certain cases, as well as Allopa-



thy, do we not, by this admission, inevitably expose ourselves defenceless to the shock of the tremendous inference,—that the treatment of many diseases on the ordinary plan must, at the very best, be useless; while it inflicts on our patients some serious evils that Homœopathy is free from, such as the swallowing of disagreeable and expensive drugs, and the frequently painful and almost always unpleasant effects produced by them during their operation? This inference, and the dilemma it involves, are always held up by the Homœopathists *in terrorem* to any Allopathist who should think of using the argument of nature's *autocrateia* against their system; and they think the threat too terrible to be encountered with disregard, much less with defiance, by any man in the actual practice of Allopathy.

"In finishing our examination of the writings of the Homœopathists, we said, that we did not shrink from admitting and adopting the inferences—however unfavorable to Allopathy—which seemed necessarily to flow from the results of their treatment of diseases. The principal of these inferences have been already stated more than once. It seems necessary, however, to recapitulate the more important of them here. These are:—

"1. That in a large proportion of the cases treated by Allopathic physicians, the disease is cured by nature, and not by them. .

"2. That in a lesser, but still not a small proportion, the disease is cured by nature in spite of them; in other words, their interference opposing, instead of assisting the cure.

"3. That, consequently, in a considerable proportion of diseases, it would fare as well, or better, with patients, in the actual condition of the medical art, as more generally practised, if all remedies, at least all active remedies, especially drugs, were abandoned.

"We repeat our readiness to admit these inferences as just, and to abide by the consequences of their adoption. We believe they are true. We grieve sincerely to believe them to be so; but so believing, their rejection is no longer in our power; we must receive them as facts, until they are proved not to be so.

"This comparative powerlessness and positive uncertainty of medicine, is also exhibited in a striking light, when we come to trace the history and fortunes of particular remedies and modes of treatment, and observe the notions of practitioners, at different times, re-

specting their positive or relative value. What difference of opinion, what an array of alleged facts directly at variance with each other, what contradictions, what opposite results of a like experience, what ups and downs, what glorification and degradation of the same remedy, what confidence now—what despair anon in encountering the same disease with the very same weapons, what horror and intolerance at one time of the very opinions and practices which, previously and subsequently are cherished and admired!

"The foregoing elucidations, it will not be doubted, disclose a lamentable state of things; but it is not a state to be despaired of; much less is it one to be concealed as something disgraceful. It is more our misfortune than our fault that it is as it is; but if it were our fault, still it ought to be made known. Here, as in morals, the more sensibly we feel our defects, the more openly and heartily we confess them, the more likely are we to get rid of them. As thus reflected in our critical mirror, the features of our Ancient Mother assuredly look somewhat unattractive. She seems neither happy nor prosperous; yea, she seems sick, very sick; yet not sick unto death. On the contrary, we believe that she is more vivacious and vigorous than at any preceding time; her countenance is merely 'sicklied o'er by the pale cast of thought,' from the strength of her inward throes; 'the genius and the mortal instruments are now in council, and her state, like to a little kingdom, is suffering the nature of an insurrection.' And such, in truth, do we believe to be, literally, the condition of physic at this moment. Things have arrived at such a pitch, that they cannot be worse. They must mend or end. We believe they will mend. The springs of life are yet untouched; the constitution retains its rallying power, the vis medicatrix is in action; and we flatter ourselves that there is yet enough of young blood and energy and wisdom in our ranks, to redeem the past, and to achieve that glorious REGENERATION, which has been long announced by infallible signs and portents in these later days. Old as we are, we yet hope to see raised the standard of 'YOUNG PHYSIC,' though we cannot expect to see it furled, after the destined victory is won.

"It would be presumptuous in us, in the present stage of the question, to attempt to give even a formal Outline or Sketch of the Reform in Practical Therapeutics which appears so necessary, and which we believe to



be impending. This is a work which can only be the result of mature reflection, and of the labor of many years and many hands. All which we can think of attempting at present, is to set down, almost at random, a few of the various considerations that press upon us, touching the many things to be thought of and done, the manifold evils to be abated, the manifold benefits to be achieved, by the enthusiastic and active spirits whom we have heretofore sportively personified under the name of 'YOUNG PHYSIC,' and to whom we look with confidence for the consummation of the great REFORMATION which assuredly will come."

[To be Continued.]

### CORRESPONDENCE WITH DR. FORBES.

"— (Germany) March 8, 1846.

[Translation.]

"Being compelled to write in haste, I avail myself of the German preferably to my bad English . . . The good fortune I have had, ever since the commencement of my medical studies, of residing in large hospitals, necessarily familiarized me early with the natural history of disease, a thing somewhat different, it is true, from what we read in many, and not all uncelebrated works. I have arrived at the conviction that in inflammation and fever our drugs prove rather mischievous than useful; and that Nature has then to overcome both the disease and the evil effect of the said drugs. I need scarcely tell an experienced physician that, under this term 'drugs,' I do not comprehend simply-mucilaginous, gently-resolvent, mildly-aromatic, or very slightly astringent decoctions or infusions. My objection is to the frequent employment of emetics, purgatives, drastic resolvents, mercurials; of cuprous, cinchona, æthereo-resinous preparations. It has been, is still perhaps, imagined, that with such remedies, inflammation and fever are to be 'cut short,' 'advanced to a crisis,' 'to resolution,' &c. Calm observation at the bedside, an unbiassed review of circumstances, long practical study of pathological processes at the dissecting table, demonstrate the untenable nature of all these fancies which have, alas, been handed down from generation to generation. Let not Nature be thwarted; above all, let external influences be properly regulated, the instincts of the patient judiciously ministered to. Under this kind of treatment diseases are assuredly less complex in their course, and more fortunate in their termination; whilst the patients themselves are spared the distress inseparable from the use of substances for the most so little german to the organism. With all this, however, I do not intend to reject all drugs; in their application I am guided by a regard to physiological pro-

cesses and conditions, and in the very few instances in which I know of specific remedies, I gladly avail myself of them; e. g. quinine, strychnia, belladonna, hyoscyamus, digitalis, — opium and morphia, — iodine, — mercury, — ipecacuanha? — tartarised antimony? — &c. &c. ???

"With respect to external remedies—in fever and inflammation, where we have to combat local evils, I allow none but physical indications to be my guide. In chronic disease, the dietetic treatment, in its most comprehensive sense, should unquestionably take the first place, although the empirical use of certain remedies must be retained, until a more intimate knowledge of the composition of the blood, of the nutritive process, of the metamorphosis of matter, of neuro-physiology, either warrants the older methods, or holds out new.

"The employment of the lancet I have almost entirely abandoned, ordering only, say, amongst 1500 patients, three or four venesections. The inference here may, perhaps, be simply this,—that in our time, for our nation, for my particular patients, phlebotomy had not been required; I can only say that I have cured all kinds of inflammation as well, nay better, without its aid; and I am entitled to make this declaration, and to appeal to experience, inasmuch as I see, annually, in my public practice alone, from 1400 to 2000 patients, besides a considerable number in my private practice; whilst during a period of fifteen years, I have had the opportunity of comparing the various methods of treatment practised in the different provinces of our Empire. Leeches I hardly ever employ, except—and that mostly to gratify the patient—for purposes of mere local depletion. Cupping I order sometimes, but upon the whole, very rarely. My rate of mortality will bear a comparison with that of my—perhaps more active—colleagues, without discredit; nor do my patients remain longer under treatment; in acute cases, in particular, I certainly do not lose more than the others. If I choose, I might perhaps be able to adduce proofs of the superiority of the simple treatment, but this I should deem inappropriate. Enough, if it shows no inferiority. . . .

It is easy for an hospital physician to register splendid diagnoses, to describe severe cases, to record a series of violent symptoms; but, for reasons easily intelligible, there is seldom in such cases a rigorous certainty as to the diagnosis. In like manner, the fixing of the cure or amelioration of the patient rests upon the personal judgment of the physician, and the books of the hospital written by himself; and he, doubtless, often loves his patient and himself sufficiently well to dismiss the case as cured, the moment the most striking and distressing symptoms are removed; but merely to receive the patient back again after a brief interval. . . .

"What do I think of *Homœopathy*? Ever since I began to *practise*, I have regarded allopathy, homœopathy, &c., as historical facts. From both I have derived instruction; from the former perhaps most. I believe that a good phy-



sician, in earnest both with humanity and his profession, cannot swear allegiance to any one standard only. The pharmacology, and more especially the pharmaco-dynamics of homœopathy, have given the impulse for a thorough reconsidering and weeding of the *Materia Medica*. Without entering upon the absurd mystifications of the ultras, both deceivers and deceived, I affirm that we have not a little to thank homœopathy for, more especially in relation to the so-called specifics, and also to the lessening of our doses. . . .

"The foregoing will show you the sort of value which I attach to the reports of hospital physicians, who contend exclusively for this, or any other system; *unconditionally they are absolutely valueless.*

"The world—the crowd—the ignorant, (and how many physicians, some of high renown, might count among the number?) never can and never will judge correctly; nor will they ever be taught by us. We must leave the finishing of the battle—the triumph and the union, if achievable—to time. I, for my own part, have resolved to let my creed be corroborated, more by deed than word; by actual experience, and not by written dogma."

It is remarkable, that truly great men, in talents, learning and experience of our profession, find it so very difficult to comprehend, what to them is a new truth in medicine: and that too, while they feel and acknowledge the want of the very truth which holds out a promise to supply the want. The above letter forcibly reminds us of this fact,—here is a talented and learned physician in a most unhappy plight—treating the sick without any fixed principles, and not knowing what to do, quiets his conscience by relying upon *nature*, and hoping that the "pharmaco-dynamics of homœopathy" will ultimately cause a thorough "weeding of the *Materia Medica*."

Suppose such gentlemen, *by way of experiment*, subject to a fair trial the *similia* principle and have their difficulties obviated.

#### NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

Our readers at a distance may desire to know more of this association—we cannot yet call it an institution, for it lacks some essential properties, to entitle it to that dignified term. The thing is altogether of foreign origin, for it is well known how desirous some of our city physicians have been, to use as models, foreign institutions and foreign manners. The leaders of the above association have already met with difficulties, on account of some real American spirits who have been admitted to membership;

and who have expressed their opinions boldly, and will not consent to be controlled by the aristocratic spirit, which it was intended should govern the Academy.

Some of the gentlemen holding places in the colleges are in rather an "awkward fix." They have allowed themselves to vote for resolutions which go to denounce, and hold up to the public as quacks, some of their own students, who have their names to their diplomas; and who have always observed the most honorable deportment in their professional duties; and have received proof of it, by the confidence the community have reposed in them. Until the formation of this association, the most strict observance was had to the established rules of medical ethics, in professional intercourse; but the Academy has broken down those wholesome rules; and now, in mercantile fashion, each physician gets a patient as he may, and no questions are asked. The people breathe freely under this new state of things—they now change their physician without ceremony. The very latest fashion is, for one physician to denounce another, in private and in public; and some members of the Academy have the high honor of introducing this state of things.

It is one of the fundamental principles of the Academy, that the people are ignorant, and do not know enough to choose a physician; and that the "dignity of the profession" demands that the people of this country should be kept in ignorance, so that the Academy may find employment, and be useful in making known to the people, who are, and who are not physicians. Hence, all appeals to the "ignorant masses," in the language of one of its prominent members are "irregular," and would, no doubt, subject the offender to expulsion.

It has been reported, yet we do not vouch for the truth of it, that the most active members of the Academy have lost most of their practice, by some of those "scoundrels" who practice Homœopathy. We do not know how this is, but lately several intelligent families have fallen into our hands, and we heard that they were formerly attended by members of the Academy; but, as there are now no rules for regulating the actions and manners of physicians towards each other—the Academy having taken them away—we did not inquire how we came to be employed, nor who smarted under the mortification of a discharge.

We are so republican in our feelings and views, that we cannot resist the conviction that

the formation of such an association, with its avowed objects, is a gross insult to the people of the city of New York, which we know they are preparing to resent, in a way that will cover its authors with disgrace.

### CONSTIPATION.

This is a very common complaint. The causes, in our opinion, are little understood. This condition of the bowels gives rise to much unnecessary misapprehension, and a great deal of bad practice. The mischievous custom of the use of cathartic medicines promotes and perpetuates costiveness. The proof of this may be found, in the experience of the thousands of miserable victims to cathartic drugging. The profession are responsible for this evil. It is wonderful that the doctrine, taught by Hippocrates more than 2000 years ago—that a sick person should have at least two evacuations from the bowels every twenty-four hours—should control the American physician of the nineteenth century.

That this is so, we have only to look at the prescriptions daily made by physicians; and the people have been made to believe, that they cannot live without purgatives. They have been made to think, a relaxed condition of the bowels essential to health. Even the late Dr. Eberle insisted "that a daily evacuation of the bowels is indispensably necessary;" yet he was aware that individuals have been known to enjoy health, who have a natural stool but once or twice a week, and cases have been reported, in which weeks, months, and, in one instance, seven years elapsed without the appearance of a stool.

Where constipation exists, experience has indeed taught the physician that cathartics signally fail in correcting it. We ask the reader to look at the history of his own experience, and he may be struck with this fact, that a free evacuation of the bowels, by a purgative, is always followed by the opposite condition—constipation.

This being so, a repetition of the doses is thought necessary, and from day to day, and week to week, they are repeated—but what is the result? The complaint constantly returns, and becomes more and more obstinate; but the doctor and the druggist say persevere. It is within our own knowledge, that individuals *have persevered* for years under this advice, until indigestion, liver complaints, drop-

sies, &c., rendered them miserable sufferers, useless members of society, and doomed them to premature death.

Is it not strange, nevertheless it is true, that for more than 2000 years, with the above facts standing out full and clear before them, Allopathic physicians have never yet seen them. If they have, we will not attempt to draw the conclusion which so naturally forces itself upon the mind in view of the fact. True, here and there, more recently, a reflecting and honest mind has perceived and acknowledged the evil of which we complain. One of whom says, "the continual racking of the bowels, by purges and indiscriminate mercuration of the system, causes more disease than they cure." Another, "has arrived at the conviction, that in inflammation and fever our drugs prove rather mischievous than useful;" another has said, "for more than forty years I have been called to attempt the relief of sufferers; the result of my observation has been, that drugs are frequently more injurious than beneficial;" and that prince of medical reviewers, Dr. Forbes, concludes that "much of the practice of medicine, in as far as this consists in the administration of drugs, is a system of traditionary routine and conventionalism, hap-hazard and guess-work; that in the present condition of the medical art, it would fare as well, or better, with patients, if all active remedies, especially drugs, were abandoned."

We might quote from others to the same point.

The inquiry may arise, why is this practice continued? The answer may be found in this: Constipation is erroneously regarded a primary disease, which it is not: and an attempt is made to combat a single effect, regardless of the cause; and the physician has been taught, unless he does in some way remove it, the foundation is laid for all sorts of evils. And this idea has been so thoroughly instilled into the minds of the mass of mankind, that a most pernicious system of drugging prevails. So much so, that the Allopathic medical journals and societies complain, that the people, and the apothecaries, do a great proportion of their business. Out of this also has arisen a lucrative business, in the manufacture and sale of syrups, tinctures, pills, &c.; and so extensive has this business become, that, on good authority we assert, two pill venders of this city pay each thirty thousand dollars annually for advertising alone;



notwithstanding which, they are reputed to be worth one half a million of dollars each; and yet the regular Allopathic physicians complain. But they are reaping the reward of their own ignorance and folly. Quackery, of which they so much complain, is the result of their own theories and practices.

We leave them, and the pill venders to manage their affairs in their own way—our duty is, to disabuse the mind of the public on a subject so important to their health and life, and the well-being of generations yet to come.

(To be Continued.)

### ABSCESS, AND ULCERATION OF THE BREAST.

Isaac Fiske, M. D., of Fall River, Mass., in a letter to us, speaks of a case of *abscess*, in the breast of a female, which had been treated by an allopathic physician ("one of the regulars") for six weeks; during which time the health of the lady suffered, from drugging, the lancet, &c.; and, finally, the allopath consoled her by saying, "that she must have a winter's siege of it." Dr. F. was employed in the case, and found her laboring under a sort of *hectic fever*, with three ulcers in the breast, together with a forming abscess. There were also indurations of the *mammæ*, of a purple color.

Aconite, belladonna, and phosphorus effected a complete cure in five weeks.

A perfectly healthy state of the milk was restored.

We are compelled, in self defence, occasionally to show up the practice of the old school, although we do desire to avoid personalities. Yet, whenever a physician of our school fails to cure a case, and it comes to the knowledge of an allopath, we are sure to see the case misrepresented, and published in some medical journal. We have made up our minds to retaliate in this respect, always avoiding the misrepresentation. It is our opinion, that a little experience of the law—"similia similibus curantur"—would do good to some of these rabid opponents of Homœopathy.

The New York Bureau, for the trial of drugs, is still engaged in the trial of *Rhus Radicans*. It meets weekly, and a careful record is kept of all the effects, which each prover may have perceived in himself.

### ALLOPATHIC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

Scarcely a medical journal reaches us, from Europe or our own country, that does not contain most bitter complaints of the condition of the allopathic branch of the medical profession. It would, no doubt, be regarded an unpardonable offence on our part, not to give full credit to what allopathic physicians say of themselves; and, we congratulate the public, on the benefit they will derive from the truth which the old school physicians are telling of one another. As politicians say, there is "a screw loose somewhere;" for such an excitement we never saw nor heard of, as at this moment exists all along the entire line of the allopathic school.

That good, will somehow or other come out of this evil, we do not doubt; for already we see one important reform, especially in this country:—it is, the junior members of the profession claim the right to think for themselves; and some of them, to their praise be it spoken, have actually set about the work in earnest—and have made considerable progress already.

### THE MATTER OF CONTAGION.

Berres, in a paper published by the Imperial Medical Association of Vienna, and noticed in the British and Foreign Medical Review, says, contagion may consist of either dry or moist matter; the former may be in the shape of scales, scurf or abrasions of the epidermis; and the latter a fluid, contained in vesicles or pustules; and, finally, contagion may be propagated by any secretion or excretion from the surface of the body. The essence of dry contagion exists in an aggregation of semi-transparent greyish white globules, about 1,10,000th of a Vienna inch in diameter. These globules swell somewhat in water, but exhibit no further internal structure. In the moist form of contagious matter, we observe a vesicle filled with a clear fluid, which exhibits no traces of organization; but should it become in the slightest degree discolored, then a number of greyish white, round molecules appear in the fluid. These are about 2-10,000th of an inch in diameter, and contain a small cavity apparently filled with a delicate vapor. But should the contents of the vesicle or pustule become more turbid, then the large spherical pus-globules become visible. It is well known that certain fluids are at one time contagious and at another totally inefficient; and the microscope has hitherto signally failed in discovering the cause of this remarkable variety of effect. From the result of his observations, Mr. Berres contends that all fixed contagions are, at their origin, alike in form, and that they consist of larger or smaller globules, which, in the moist variety, are surrounded by a clear fluid; more-

over, that we have no data to explain the extreme variety in the effects and operations of contagion; and, lastly, that we must allow a specific life and separate existence to *contagion*, which combines itself with the globules above referred to, and employs them as the means of its hidden power. He conceives contagion to be propagated in two different ways, the material and the dynamic or vital. In considering the first-named mode, our attention should be directed to the anatomical constituents of contagion, as before described, and also to the surface of the human body, as its destined recipient. He denies, or at least strongly doubts, the possibility of dry contagious matter acting through the epidermis; and even in the moist form it would require a large quantity for the necessary endosmose: we must, then, allow that it is not the materies of contagion, but its specific life or vitality, which constitutes disease: and infection is then a dynamico-vital process, which takes place between living contagious matter, and the individuals predisposed to receive it. If this be true, it follows that contagion in all respects resembles the process of fecundation; where it is not the semen itself, but the aura seminalis which operates on the germinal vesicle.

As the First Volume of this Journal is near its close, will those who are in arrears for subscriptions, oblige us by remitting the amount by mail, at our risk. To those who have so promptly complied with our request in this respect, we return our thanks. Several gentlemen have sent us two dollars, which pays for the Second Volume. This is a good plan—it saves much trouble.

A number of Physicians, to whom we have sent this Journal, have not received all the numbers—we shall take care to have their sets complete.

The friends of Homœopathy in Washington, D. C., can obtain this Journal, by leaving their names with W. ADAMS, of that city.

*Hartmann's Theory of Acute Diseases and their Homœopathic Treatment. Third German edition, translated with additions, by C. J. Hempel, M. D.*

The 1st vol. 12mo., pp. 272, of the above work, has just been published by Wm. Radde, New York. It was our intention to have given an extended notice of this volume in this num-

ber of our Journal; but we have not room for it. We shall endeavor to do so in our next. In the mean time we will say, that it contains much valuable matter, which every member of the profession should read. It also, contains some few things which we cannot approve. The contents in general are, a long and interesting introduction; classification of diseases; general therapeutic rules; fevers; general remarks on it; general remote causes of fever; classification of fevers; and special pathology of fevers, which is divided into six classes. While we purpose cautioning the Homœopathic physician, especially the inexperienced, against some few errors, which we regret to see interspersed in a work of this kind, we do not hesitate to say that he may derive much benefit from its *careful study*, and that none should be without the work.

*Jahr's New Manual, originally published under the name of Symptomen-Codex (Digest of Symptoms). Translated by Charles J. Hempel, M. D., revised by John F. Gray, M. D., with contributions by other members of the profession.*

This valuable work is to be published by W. Radde, 322 Broadway, in numbers of 96 pp., 8vo. No. 1 was received just as our number was going to press; consequently we cannot do more, at this time, than announce its publication, and say, that it has been got up in most creditable style. In fact, nothing from the press of Mr. Radde will compare with it in point of typographical execution. We hope that the profession will now be supplied with what may be emphatically termed a *Materia Medica*.

*The Rival Schools of Medicine: or, Homœopathy versus Allopathy. A Lecture, by Dr. J. Bryan, of North Port, Long Island, N. Y.*

This Lecture was delivered at North Port, and its publication requested by the audience. It is a most able vindication of Homœopathy, and deals some hard blows on Allopathy. We are not surprised that those who heard it should have desired to see it in print. Yet, the typographical execution is anything but what it ought to have been. We hope Dr. B. will have his Lecture for sale in this city.



The friends of Homœopathy in Philadelphia can have this Journal delivered at their houses, on the day of publication, by leaving their names with C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North Fourth Street.

### BONNINGHAUSEN'S THERAPEUTIC POCKET-BOOK.

Just received, a few copies of "Bonninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket-Book for Homœopaths; to be used at the bedside of the patient and in the study of the *Materia Medica*." Edited by A. Howard Okie, M.D., translator of "Hartmann's Remedies," "Ruoff's Repertory," &c. &c.

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GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipzig Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's *Materia Medica*, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

VOL. I.

New York, Saturday, March 27, 1847.

NO. 23.

S. K. KIRBY, M. D. AND R. A. SNOW, M. D., EDITORS.

DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1847.

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## PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

Much has been said of a division in our school on the subject of doses. There is not, neither can there be, controversy on this point; notwithstanding the erroneous assertion, that many prominent Homœopaths have changed

their views on this branch of our art, and that even Hahnemann renounced the use of the higher attenuations at a late period of his life.

The homœopathic art is founded upon a fundamental principle in nature—eternally true—and of universal application. It is a sure—the only true, or scientific law known in medicine by which the Physician may be guided in practice. "Art is to science what action is to thought. The discovery of the law of Homœopathy made medicine as a science perfect. Medicines tend to cure diseases similar to those they tend to produce. This is a perfect hypothesis for the circumstances; because it embraces all the circumstances coming within the range of medication, and it is possible to establish the truth or falseness of it by experiment."

Hahnemann as if by inspiration caught this idea in his study of the *materia medica* of Cullen. *He put it to the test.* He experimented until he demonstrated its truth. The only way in which it could be known, or that can give to the opinions of its opposers the value of any thing. He administered drugs in the first place upon this principle in large or ordinary doses; but he found as might have been supposed, if the principle were true; that, though he effected cures, severe and unnecessary aggravations were produced in the disease, and often the specific effects of the drug were substituted. In a natural disease he gave a drug, that would produce a similar phenomena in a healthy person; and now, when the susceptibilities of the system are aroused to its action, it is perfectly in harmony with the law, that too large a dose should aggravate the condition of the patient. Hence, he diminished the dose, and continued to do so, until he found he could cause a curative reaction, without the violent effects of the remedy.

As simple dilution would not obviate this difficulty sufficiently, he devised his mode of at-



tenuation or dynamization. And in this way, he was enabled in most cases to secure only the curative effects; and to establish that broad and beautiful distinction in the doses, which exists between the old (allopathic) and the new (homœopathic) schools in medicine.

The former obtaining the palliative, alterative and poisonous action of drugs; the latter the curative influence. The vital power of the human system, upon the disturbance of which, the diseased condition depends, is not a thing of brass, or wood, or stone, to be wrought upon by mechanical forces. It is not a material agent to be moved by forces, estimated by the grain, ounce, or pound. It is immaterial—dynamic—spiritual, and is susceptible to disturbing influences of a like nature. There is nothing ponderable in the balmy breeze of a summers morning, which comes charged with the undetectable miasm; and which makes its silent impress upon the unconscious victim, intent only on the freshness and sweetness of the atmosphere; while anon, he is seized with a violent ague—the fatal cholera—or the hideous eruption of the smallpox.

The limit of this attenuation of drugs is not fixed nor known. The different degrees are valuable, and must remain so, as long as there be differences of constitution, stages and states of disease.

The power of the doses is a matter of experience, made available by tact, and skill and judgement. As we know no limit to the divisibility of matter; neither is there a point in the process of attenuation beyond which, it may be said, no susceptibility exists to the influence of a medicine homœopathic to it.

There are no accredited homœopathic physicians who disbelieve, or deny the power of dynamized medicines. We know not the man whose claims to an understanding and appreciation of the principles of homœopathy are acknowledged, who denies the doctrine of the dynamization of medicines, and who only employs the crude drugs. If there are those pretending to the practice of homœopathy who use only crude drugs, they openly avow their adhesion to some of the empiricism of the old school; and with such, there is controversy.

The entire scale is before the physician—he who knows the power of the 3d or 6th or 12th attenuations, has no reason to question that of the 30th. Nor can he who knows the value of the 30th deny curative effects beyond it. Undoubtedly the potencies in more common use,

are found to be satisfactory in every day practice; yet cases may be distinguished where the higher are preferable, and they will always be employed by these most skilled in the treatment of complicated, difficult, and especially in chronic diseases.

The observant practitioner will readily discover from his own experience, the value of the different attenuations. He will learn to distinguish the alterative action of large doses, from the curative effects of the attenuations. We have it from the best authority that Hahnemann in the latter period of his life, so far from renouncing his views of doses, was engaged in extending the scale of attenuations. Hartmann says:—

“Hahnemann even thought that those highest dynamizations were frequently too powerful, especially in chronic diseases, and he therefore introduced the method of simply smelling a few pellets moistened with the medicine. Afterwards he thought that even olfaction was too powerful for certain delicate organisms, and he advised such patients to dissolve a few pellets of the medicine in half a tumblerful of water, and of taking a tablespoonful every day, or every two or three days. According to Bœnninghausen's communication in the New Archive, first and second number, Hahnemann has carried his dynamizations still higher.

“The correctness of the views which Hahnemann has promulgated about the dynamizing power of the processes of trituration and succession, cannot be denied, nor will it be denied by any one who is familiar with homœopathic practice, and has used the 30th, 40th, and 60th potency of Arsenic, Belladonna, etc., with the same happy results as we have done in our practice. Latterly, however, the process of dynamization has been carried much farther than ever had been before, and with so much enthusiasm that it is impossible to foresee its ultimate boundaries.”

The value of the different potencies is established. The more the opinions and practice of Hahnemann are considered, the more, we apprehend, will they command confidence.

The adoption of the rules laid down by him for the treatment of disease, has nowhere disappointed the expectations of the practitioner.

Extract from the minutes of the *Homœopathic Society of New York*, at the regular monthly meeting, March 9th, 1847.

"*Resolved*, That the discourse which Dr. Joslin read before this society, this evening, on taking the chair, be published in the *American Journal of Homœopathy*."

B. F. BOWERS, *Sec'y*.

## EVIDENCES

OF THE

## POWER OF SMALL DOSES AND ATTENUATED MEDICINES,

INCLUDING A

## THEORY OF POTENTIZATION.

BY B. F. JOSLIN, M. D.,

OF NEW YORK.

GENTLEMEN,

Who, after due study of the writings of Hahnemann and a strict trial of his method of practice, has ever come to the conclusion that Hahnemann was an impostor or a visionary and Homœopathy a cheat or a delusion? If any honest physician, after a careful trial, ever rejected the Homœopathic practice, he must possess a feeble intellect. As the sceptical portion of the medical profession have not made this examination, their prejudices are entitled to some respect. How shall they be prevailed on to undertake the requisite reading, and those experiments which are still more essential. Many feel themselves fortified in their present position by the testimony of antiquity, or the countenance of their fellow practitioners. Were I addressing such, I would commence with the following

*Fable of the Ass and the Steamboat.*—An ass, heavily laden with a sack of letters directed to a distant town on the river, was met on his way by a fox, who apprized him, that ease and expedition would both be promoted, by transferring his burden to a steamer which had just then stopped at the shore.

"This is unreasonable, friend Reynard," replied the patient beast; "for my method of transporting the mail has been in operation three thousand years, yours only fifty. It is impossible that the combined wisdom of so many generations should not exceed that of one."

"Your reasoning," replied the fox, "can

have no weight, unless there had been a race or races between steamboats and asses during the said three thousand years, and it had been decided that the ass always gained the race and was less fatigued. Now this trial of speed and strength must have been impossible before steamboats were invented."

Whilst the mail-carrier of the old line was staggering under the weight of this argument and that of his letters, another ass overtook him, and having overheard the conversation, was enabled to bring timely aid to the confounded disputant.

"Master Reynard," quoth he, "you are not of an age and size rightly to decide such matters. Your facts and arguments may be unanswerable; but they should have no weight with any respectable ass. No respectable and learned ass should ever adopt the new method, until some other ass, still more respectable and more learned, shall have previously adopted it."

"It puzzles my brain," replied the fox, "to apply this rule to any useful purpose. I pity your hopeless condition. The practices of the respectable and learned asses could never be reformed, if each must wait till some ass more learned and respectable than himself should have set the example."

*Moral.*—The idol of one man is antiquity; that of another is respectability. The former rejects whatever was not in ages before him; the latter, whatever is not in the circle above him. The man who prefers caste to truth, and spurns useful discoveries not sanctioned by the head or the tail of some academy or fashionable clique, can only be pitied. But the man who venerates the shade of antiquity, and in matters even of science and art, is awed into ultra-conservatism by long-established opinion and usage, is entitled to some instruction. He does not consider, that the *non-adoption* of undiscovered facts and unheard opinions is not equivalent to their *rejection*. There are many facts, and inferences from them, which former ages neither adopted nor rejected; and simply because they never so much as dreamed, either of the possibility of the facts or of the conclusions to which their future discovery would necessarily lead every sound and unprejudiced mind.

*Example.*—Homœopathy is fifty years old. The physicians of former ages never rejected the Homœopathic materia medica, for it was not known; and as the physicians who preceded Hahnemann knew but few of the symp-



toms which medicines excite in healthy persons, they had no means of determining whether medicines always relieve symptoms similar to those which they produce: they never tried this as a general law of cure. They never made any Homœopathic attenuations, and consequently never dreamed of instituting any comparison between their efficacy and that of crude drugs. Homœopathy was never rejected before the time of Hahnemann.

Before stating, in favour of this system, any speculative views, I will acknowledge that my own conversion was not effected by them, but by the following experiments. I took the third attenuation of a medicine, and, avoiding the study of its alleged symptoms as recorded in books, I made a record of all the new symptoms which I experienced. When this record was completed, I examined a printed list of symptoms, and was surprised to find a remarkable coincidence between them and those which I had experienced. I at first thought it probably an accidental coincidence. I repeated the medicine, and again found a coincidence equally striking. Another medicine was then tried, with similar precautions and similar results. There was a new set of symptoms, very different from the former, but generally corresponding with the printed symptoms of the medicine last taken. Thus the evidence accumulated, from week to week, until I became thoroughly convinced that such a number of coincidences could not, on the theory of probabilities, be accidental. There were thousands of chances to one against such a supposition. I *knew* that the attenuated medicines were efficient, and the Homœopathic materia medica, so far as I had tested it, substantially *true*.

The above mode of commencing and continuing the investigation, is that which I would recommend to all inquirers. The incredibility of the power of the small doses and of the attenuations, had been my greatest stumbling-block. This being removed by actual and direct experiment, I felt confidence in Hahnemann, and felt justified in making therapeutic experiments, to test his grand law of healing. The result was equally satisfactory, and gave me a firm confidence—which every year's practice has tended to strengthen—in the exact truth and inestimable value of the Homœopathic law, and the superiority of the Homœopathic method of practice over every other system and combination of systems.

My apology for designing to give a discourse mainly theoretical, is that the direct examination of Homœopathy is, prevented by speculative objections. If Homœopathy were assailed only by facts, it has a magazine of facts sufficient for repelling the assault. To many minds, the facts of the new school seem incredible, because unsupported—as they think—by analogous facts, and inexplicable on any known principles. Even to the most observant men, these difficulties beset the very threshold of Homœopathic inquiry, and deter them from entering. Could such men be prevailed on to enter, their conversion would be secure. Not so with all. Some would be haunted with speculative difficulties, in spite of the testimony of their senses. A disproportionate activity of comparison would require analogies, and excessive causality would never be satisfied without scientific principles. Each case of medical scepticism requires its appropriate curative; which must have some specific relation to the dominant faculties. The man who believes nothing but what he *sees*, will never be cured by *thinking*; and the man who believes nothing but what he spins out of his own brain, “as spiders spin cobwebs out of their bowels,” will never be cured by *observation*. Reasoning corrects reasoning. We must cure sceptical minds as we do diseased bodies—homœopathically; and be all things to all men, in the hope of gaining some to the cause of truth.

The three grand theoretical problems of Homœopathy, are: First, Why are diseases cured by similar irritants? Secondly, Why by minute or infinitesimal doses? Thirdly, Why best by medicine in an attenuated state? Or in other words, On what principle are medicines potentized? Of the first problem, I shall not now attempt to give the solution. It never presented any serious difficulty to my own mind, nor is it the principal stumbling-block to persons in general. I shall not stop to inquire, whether the known fact, that diseases are curable by agents which excite similar affections, is to be explained on the principle that two similar diseases cannot coexist, or on the principle that an impression on the vital forces excites them to reaction, or on the principle that the secondary effect of a medicine is the opposite of the primary; nor shall I attempt to consider, whether some of these principles may not in some sense be compatible.

One thing is evident; that is, that two vital

actions in every respect similar, must involve the same parts, even to microscopic precision—the same tissues, the same fibres, the same particles. To employ a similar irritant is to meet the disease directly, in its very home, and either coincide with or oppose it, so far as the ultimate and practical effect is concerned. If the similarity is perfect, there can be no new action set up entirely foreign to the disease. As a strict homœopathic practice, then, does not tend to excite lateral movements, it must, as its ultimate effect, bring the system to a point either backward or forward of that to which the disease would have hurried it, but to a point—so to speak—on the same track. In other words, it must stay the disease or accelerate it, make it better or worse. This condition of action enables us and all men to compare the homœopathic results with unaided nature, as well as with the *antipathic* part of the old school practice. When the question is one of quantity, there is less uncertainty than when the question of quality is complicated with it. If homœopathic physicians generally made the disease worse, it would be a matter of notoriety. But if their agents have any efficiency, they must make it either worse or better. Let this general defence against the antipathists suffice, until they detect a decided and permanent aggravation—a making of the disease really worse—as the usual ultimate effect of homœopathic treatment. This we challenge them to detect.

Instead of confining ourselves to the defensive, it would be easy to maintain higher ground, and challenge a comparison between *results* obtained by opposites, and those by similars. Cold water transiently allays the irritation of a burn, but leaves it permanently irritable. Cathartics move the bowels, but leave them afterwards incapable of moving themselves. A plausible common sense tells the physicking physician, that he is removing costiveness; reason and experience should teach him that he is only stereotyping it. To relieve pain and nervous irritation, the community are perpetually drugged with opiates and other narcotics, which increase the sleeplessness and nervousness, and even the cough and pain, unless the drug is continually repeated. This last is the usual expedient. The blow has not weakened the disease: if it has not fatally stunned nature, she may eventually effect a cure.

If a patient would know the real effect

which a medicine has produced, let him suspend its use. If the symptoms disappear whenever the medicine is taken, and reappear whenever it is omitted, the medicine is doing absolutely nothing towards a cure. Homœopathia can safely appeal to this test; for she uses no mere palliatives. A single homœopathic dose will—after a slight retrograde impulse—move the patient forward on the track of amendment, for hours, days, or weeks, according to the nature of the disease, and bring him to a permanently advanced position, from which other doses will carry him forward to perfect and permanent health.

But whilst Homœopathia never sacrifices the future to the present, she, on the other hand, never sacrifices the present to the future: she arrests the most violent and rapid diseases, more forcibly and speedily than any other system.

To show the advantage of giving a medicine, which, at the first instant, coincides with the disease, instead of one which at the first instant opposes it, I have deemed it sufficient to appeal to the results, and to give a plain rule for testing the two modes of treatment at every stage.

In regard to another branch of the old school practice, the *revulsive* or allopathic—which excites sufferings dissimilar to the disease—Homœopathia can appeal no less triumphantly to final results, in the most rapid and violent diseases, as well as in chronic ones.

But the comparison of intermediate results, at different stages, is attended with more difficulty, and is more likely to mislead the superficial observer, than in the case of the antipathic treatment. Here comes in the question of quality of disease, as well as quantity. The elements of the problem are heterogeneous, and often concealed. The disease, if apparently cured, is displaced by one or more dissimilar diseases, some acute, some chronic. An emetic cures a headache, and at the same time leaves a chronic inflammation of the stomach. A cathartic removes the contents of the bowels—which in ninety-nine cases in a hundred were doing no injury—whilst the cathartic leaves a chronic inflammation of the mucous lining and a paralytic weakness of the muscular coat of the intestines. These practices account for the general prevalence of dyspepsia. The multitudinous arms of this polypus are not more nourished by nostrums than by prescriptions called scientific.



With these lateral impulses of the revulsive method, which throw the disease on some other track—and often on different tracks, some of them concealed in dark tunnels—the patient, if a man of intelligence and reflection, will often be led to doubt whether his apparent amendment is really of any advantage. An intelligent layman yesterday expressed to me his conviction, that “patients often find it as hard to get rid of the medicine as of the disease.” When the new form of disease is chronic and latent, the patient often submits, without complaint, to its future eruptions, as a new dispensation of Providence.

Homœopathy cures a disease without inflicting new ones, acute or chronic. But because the patient feels no explosion of the disease, no laceration of other parts by its fragments, he often doubts whether the medicine has acted. If the evil spirit has not torn him, he doubts whether it has been forcibly expelled.

The immediate morbid effects of a drug, people regard as the proper *working* of the medicine, and common sense—which is often another name for shallow reasoning—teaches them that the more a medicine works, the more it will do. They say, “Doctor, your medicine has not operated.”

Experience has led people to expect some morbid effects from medicines. Morbid effects are regarded as the tests of energy, without considering whether these have any curative tendency.

If a man rides on a rough road, in a carriage without springs, he is very sensible of the motion, though his progress be only six miles an hour. Yet the jars contribute nothing to his progress. They are wasting the force destined to progression. On a smooth railroad, the passenger, seated in a closed car, gliding at the rate of twenty miles an hour, is scarcely sensible of any progress. To the great movements of the globe we inhabit, we are utterly insensible. Whirled around by the diurnal motion, a thousand miles an hour, or several hundreds, according to our latitude, and shooting along the earth’s orbit seventy thousand miles an hour, we suffer no *jars*, we feel no progress. The vulgar eye perceives none; ancient *philosophy* perceived none.

Up to the time of Hahnemann, medical philosophy was equally blind to the curative effects of medicines. Its attention was directed solely to the jarring, the *lateral* movements. If the drug purged, or sweat or vo-

luted, or excited some other secretion or excretion, then, and then only, it operated. The real, the specific virtues, were overlooked. Rational medicine despised specifics, as the excrescences of science. With Hahnemann they constitute the whole structure. With him originated the first general law for the administration of specifics. This is Homœopathy. With his predecessors, every drug was pressed into the service of some evacuating group, or it was nobody and nothing. Even the arch-agent, mercury, was not permitted to enrol itself, without consenting to head a squad of silalogues, i. e. spitting drugs. Yet this collateral effect is not curative. If mercury salivates *in* curing, it does not cure *by* salivating. If it purges in curing, it does not cure by purging; neither does rhubarb nor jalap nor any other cathartic, under ordinary circumstances. We might as well estimate the power of a steam-engine by the jarring of the boat, or that of a fire-engine by the leakage from a hose, as that of medicine by the evacuations. Every motion is not progression; every accident is not proper action.

What a destruction of vital power, what a waste of medicinal energy, by such medical engineering! No wonder they are unable to make small doses operate. I shall proceed to show why the followers of Hahnemann *can* make small doses operate. This exposition will include the doctrine of potentization.

There are four *reasons* why Hahnemann’s small doses operate. First, They act *directly* on the disordered parts. Secondly, They act in the *right direction*. Thirdly, Disease renders the *parts peculiarly sensitive* to the appropriate medicine. Fourthly, The power of the medicine is exalted by a *peculiar mode of preparation*.

First: The Homœopathic medicine acts *directly* on the part which requires to be influenced, and not on other parts. It acts near at hand, and not at a distance. This circumstance is always favourable to strength of action, and gives small and near things more energy than great and remote ones. The moon has only the one twenty-eight millionth part as much matter as the sun, yet it has three times as much power to raise the tides of our ocean. The cohesion of one clean bullet pressed against another, will suspend it in spite of the attraction of the whole earth. The one is in contact with the thing acted on, the other is at a distance. This is precisely



the relation which the Homœopathic medicine sustains to the revulsive. Revulsive operations are indirect, and often superficial. The machinery of the human body is vastly more complicated than any watch or chronometer, and those parts in which most of the vital processes are carried on, are inconceivably more minute and delicate than the machinery of any time-keeper. To make applications to the skin for an internal disease, is not direct treatment. You would not repair the wheels of a watch by scouring the case. But says one, I go deeper and to the real inside. I purify the intestines. Very well! That is like scouring the brass cap that covers the machinery. It is still a very indirect and superficial expedient. The steam-boiler affords an illustration of the difference between external and internal operations. Some boilers are pervaded by flues. These are mere continuations of the outer surface, as the mucous surface of the intestines is a continuation of the skin. To clear a flue is not cleansing the boiler; so to clear the intestines is not a purification of the system; as the venders of quack cathartics persuade many of the community. It is time for the regular physicians to discountenance such charlatanism.

The medical electricians think they reach the real interior, and apply the force at the right point. It must be conceded, that they use a force which is pervading, and analagous to, if not identical with, the vital forces. But the application of it is necessarily gross and ignorant. They expect to drive a steam-engine by directing a current of steam indiscriminately through all parts of the machinery. Infinitely more preposterous! They expect that a combination of engines with an infinite number of pistons, in an infinite variety of positions—some moving too slowly, others too fast—will have its movements harmoniously regulated, by a great current of steam which shall sweep through the whole in one direction. I would warn the Homœopathic physician against listening to the delusive pretensions of medical electricity as now ignorantly practiced, or invoking it as an auxiliary. This warning may be the more necessary, as he is more a vitalist than a materialist, and attributes great importance to imponderable agents. If animal electricity is intimately concerned in morbid actions, it must be in a way so complicated, that all such projects for its regulation are crude and futile.

Homœopathic medicines are the only true

regulators of animal electricity and of the human organism. The Homœopathic physician is the true engineer of this complicated machinery. Its minutest and most important parts are invisible to him, and equally so to every other anatomist and pathologist, the most learned and the most conceited. Not one of them, in his minutest dissections, has ever seen the real inside of nature, the real vital machinery, the elementary parts, much less the all important—the elementary—vital actions. Both are meta-microscopic. I would not found systems of vital engineering, upon such superficial examinations, nor expect perfect success in any attempt to repair parts so inconceivably delicate, with instruments as coarse as crude drugs. The Homœopathic physician can regulate the invisible machinery of this engine. His tools are delicate and appropriate, and he has learned the law which regulates their application to invisible parts. The infinitely wise and benevolent Contriver has furnished the engine with indices—called symptoms—which point to the particular manipulations required for its regulation. To complete the manifestation of his goodness in regard to this, he has, in the course of his Providence, and through the teachings of Hahnemann, instructed mankind in the use of these indices. To attempt a cure on theoretical principles, regardless of the paramount authority of these indications, is as unwise as to seek the hour of the day by attempting to determine by algebra the position of the wheels of a clock, instead of listening to its striking or looking at its hands. The remedy, selected in accordance with the unerring index, acts upon the very parts which require to be influenced. This contiguity, or proximity of the agent, would of itself render a small dose sufficient and a large dose unsafe.

Had it been customary with the older surgeons to extract *splinters* from the fingers by pounding them with a *hammer*, and some one had ultimately hit upon the expedient of doing it with a needle, should we not have heard a great outcry against the innovation? Says the old orthodox surgeon, "This small-dose system has no efficiency. I have been pounding here for two hours; and the splinter has barely started. My instrument is efficient, as you have evidence in the bruises. Do you think to dislodge the splinter with your insignificant homœopathic needle point? It is contrary to the experience of three thousand years; it is contrary to all analogy. I would



as soon think of harnessing a musquetoe before my gig. I have deliberately adopted this maxim, To believe nothing which is incredible, except on evidence which is overwhelming." The surgeon of the new school replies, "Your instrument is ponderous and powerful, but not efficacious. Its force is worse than wasted on the living and distant parts. You might pound the patient to a jelly, before the splinter would come out. If you happen now and then to hit it, you are just as likely to drive it in. My instrument is small but effective. The whole secret consists in applying the force at the right point, and in the right direction."

Allopathia applies her force at the wrong point; Antipathia, in the wrong direction; Homœopathia applies hers at the right point and in the right direction. This *right direction* is the second reason why a small dose suffices. For the proof that the Homœopathic direction is the right one, I rely mainly upon the testimony of experience. When treating of the opposite laws of cure, I have shown that when we at first move the system a little, in nearly in the same direction, the ultimate results are incomparably better than when we attempt instantly to reverse its motion.

There is no absurdity in this. Analogies are in its favour. Medicine is the small *guiding* force; nature the strong impelling power. Nature might impel to destruction, if medicine were not at the helm. The ship's course is not reversed by stopping the wind, or opposing it, but by using it. The pilot does not attempt to *back* his ship against the wind, but turns her about by moving a few moments, nearly in the same direction. Suppose it were necessary to bring back into port, a ship sailing directly away from it before a strong breeze. What would be thought of the captain, who should keep the sails and the helm in their old position, and direct all hands to apply oars, and with all their feeble might, paddle the ship back against the wind, stern foremost? I should infer, first, that he had been educated in the antipathic school; and secondly, that he had never read, that "ships, though great, and driven by fierce winds, are yet turned about by a very small helm."

Thirdly, The efficacy of a small dose—and the danger of a large one—is increased by the peculiarly *sensitive condition of disordered parts*. Suffering with a morbid action similar to that producible by the medicine, they

possess a preternaturally acute sensibility to its influence.

It is unnecessary to illustrate and confirm this principle by examples. They are obvious and numberless. The scalded hand is pained by a distant fire, the inflamed skin by slight percussion, and the inflamed eye by light. The agents, which now with feeble intensity, can severely aggravate the irritation, could, if applied with greater intensity, have originated the inflammation in the healthy parts. But the force which can barely aggravate the existing irritation, could not have irritated the parts when in their normal condition. That kind of irritant which, in the locality in which it acts and in the phenomena which it develops, resembles the cause of any disease, is found by experience to be its proper curative. The excitement which this, given in small doses, produces, is soon followed by melioration of the disease, and ultimately by permanent cure. The dose administered on such a principle should be exceedingly small, and the action of such a dose, given under such circumstances, is not incredible.

We sometimes hear of men—in sound health—going into the chamber of a patient, and swallowing a *tumblerful* of a solution which a Homœopathic physician had left to be administered in teaspoonful doses. This is a common-sense—that is to say—a shallow—argument against Homœopathy, by very green philosophers. Suppose such a man should visit a patient whose eyes were inflamed, and exceedingly intolerant of light. He finds him in a dark chamber, which has sixty-four panes of glass; but the patient declares, that it irritates his eyes to uncover a single one of them. The visitor declares this to be incredible and absurd; and proves to his own satisfaction the truth of his own position, by raising every curtain, and finding that his own eyes are not injured by the light. If the weak-minded and uninstructed should be gathered into a school of elementary science, the man who swallowed the sixty-four teaspoonfuls, should be placed in the same class with the man who uncovered the sixty-four panes. I know not his residence, but hope he will make it known before such a charitable institution is established.

The fourth reason why Hahnemann's small doses are efficacious is, that the power of the medicine is developed or exalted by a *peculiar mode of preparation*.

The *three grand doctrines* of Homœopathy



are ; First, The law, *Similia similibus curantur*—Medicines relieve affections similar to those which they are capable of producing ; Secondly, The doctrine of *dose*—Small doses are most safe and efficacious ; Thirdly, The doctrine of *potence*—Medicines are peculiarly powerful after being subjected to sufficient friction or succussion with a suitable quantity of some inert substance.

These doctrines have naturally *grown* out of *each other* in the above order. The primary action of the medicine coincides with the disease, and aggravates it. Hahnemann, observing these aggravations to be severe, protracted and dangerous, gradually reduced the dose to a safe point. The determination of this was purely a matter of experience. New experiments were essential, experiments in the use of medicines coinciding with diseases. Allopathic and Antipathic experience, with medicines acting on sound organs to produce revulsion, or on diseased organs in direct opposition to the disease, could never determine the appropriate Homœopathic dose. From a revolution in the therapeutic law, emanated a revolution in doses. From this revolution in posology, emanated the grand discovery of potentization or dynamization. By the doctrine of *potence*, as discovered by Hahnemann, I mean no physical theory, but only a generalization of practical facts in relation to the reality of the increased power manifested by medicine after having been subjected to Hahnemann's processes. After stating the facts, I shall attempt to give a theory.

When the one-hundredth part of a grain of an insoluble substance was to be administered, the most convenient method was, to mix one grain of it intimately with ninety-nine grains of an inert substance, like *saccharum lactis*, and subsequently divide the mass into one hundred parts. Water, or alcohol—which in minute quantities is almost equally destitute of medicinal properties—served a similar purpose in reducing the dose of liquids and soluble substances. The diffusion of one drop of medicine through ninety-nine of alcohol afforded a ready and exact method of administering the one-hundredth part of the former.

But it was soon discovered that no rule of three, no simple doctrine of proportion, embraced the true theory of doses. The one-hundredth part of a grain thus prepared—instead of retaining only one-hundredth part of the power of the original grain—had a pathogenic or symptom-producing power, not

many times more or less than the whole grain, and a disease-curing power greater even than the whole grain. I state the law thus indefinitely, because the ratios differ for different medicines ; and, from the nature of the subject, cannot be determined with great precision for any.

Fortunately for humanity, there is one power of a drug which may be more nearly approximated by the doctrine of proportion, by the rule of three ; and that is, the poisonous, the *death-producing* power.

Much of the scepticism that prevails among physicians in regard to the efficacy of small doses, arises from confounding the totally different laws which regulate *curative* and *poisonous* effects. If—as has been usual in the old practice, in many cases of severe disease—remedies were administered in doses which approached the extreme limits of safety, then to double *such* a dose might make the danger from its operation at least two-fold. Conversely, to reduce a poisonous dose by one half, might remove at least one half of the danger ; but it by no means follows, that another bisection would abstract one half of the salutary efficiency. In the case of specific medicines—and this is the only class which Homœopathy recognizes—the curative power diminishes much less rapidly than the dose, even in case of crude substances. Of this every old-school physician is aware, in regard to the alterative action of mercury.

That power is nearly proportional to quantity, is a proposition which might be entertained by the chemist or natural philosopher, by the mere *physicien*—the man engaged in considering physical and chemical properties or the mutual actions of inorganic matter—but not by the *physician*, the man conversant with medical properties, with actions on living bodies. In the mechanical and chemical arts, one pound or one grain of any substance has only the one-hundredth part of the effect of one hundred. The doctrine of the proportionality of power to quantity seems on a partial view to be confirmed by an experience almost universal. Hence the Hahnemannian discovery of the amazing efficacy of infinitesimal doses, has to contend with a general and deep-rooted prejudice, especially among those whose studies have been confined to the properties of dead matter. The immense power of infinitesimal doses is almost equally incredible to the physician, unless he has tried his medicines in the potentized form.



The preparation of minute doses led to attenuations—that is, preparations containing little medicine in a given bulk. The first solution or trituration prepared by the process above described was called the first attenuation. The second was prepared from the first, as the first was from the crude article. The original purpose for which the trituration and shaking were employed, was to produce a uniform diffusion. On trying these preparations as medicines, Hahnemann unexpectedly discovered that they were peculiarly powerful. Hence they were called *potences* or dynamizations. Independently, of all speculative reasoning, the experience of Hahnemann and other Homœopathic physicians has demonstrated, First; That a given weight of any drug in a *dilute* state, possesses a greater therapeutic power than the same weight of it in the crude or concentrated state. Secondly; That *Hahnemann's method* of diffusing a medicinal substance through a non-medical one, by successive steps or stages in regular progression, and with mechanical force, *developes more curative power* than is developed in an equally dilute mixture or solution prepared in the ordinary way.

Physicians of the old school have made observations confirmatory of the former proposition, especially in relation to *mineral waters*. Prof. Daubeny, of the University of Oxford, alludes to the unquestionable efficacy of certain mineral waters in England, in connection with the fact of their containing only one grain of iodine in ten gallons of the water. He adopts an extremely improbable and unscientific hypothesis, viz. that the iodine imparts its qualities to the other substances with which it is associated.

The truth that Hahnemann's processes are peculiarly efficient in the developement of medicinal power, is established by the experience of thousands of intelligent and scientific physicians, who have had a thorough and practical acquaintance with the old medicines and the old method of treating diseases. Believing that theoretical objections prevent many from testing Hahnemann's potences, I shall attempt to give a

### THEORY OF POTENTIZATION.

My view, expressed in the most general terms, is, that *Hahnemann's process* *developes the power of a drug by effecting a comminution*, and in no other way. This is the whole secret of that incredible power which experience proves his preparations to possess. Trituration and mix-

ture with *saccharum lactis* promote this developement, just so far as they promote comminution, and no farther. The successive steps of centigrade dilution promote this, by subjecting every particle of the medicinal substance to the mechanical, tearing-asunder operation of the non-medicinal one. One man, by Hahnemann's process, can, in a single day, effect a greater comminution of a substance, than could have been effected in a *direct* mixture and trituration, by the combined labour of the whole human race continually operating since the creation of Adam. The labour that built the pyramids is nothing in comparison to that of preparing even the eighteenth potency by such a process, that is, by thoroughly triturating one grain with a sextillion of grains. By Hahnemann's process, the eighteenth trituration is prepared by one man in eighteen hours, one hour being sufficient at each stage for a thorough trituration.

The whole world could not divide a medicinal powder so minutely, either by triturating it with one mass of *saccharum lactis*, or by triturating it by itself. For in the first case, the labour would be enormous on account of the bulk. In the last case, the comminution would attain a limit, and the medicine would be left coarse compared with Hahnemann's.

To triturate one grain of medicinal powder with ninety-nine grains of a hard inert powder, like *saccharum lactis*, effects not merely a wider separation of its original component masses, but a *division* of those masses, and a division more minute than would be practicable by any amount of trituration of the medicinal powder per se. In subjecting one grain of the resulting powder to a similar operation with ninety-nine grains of *saccharum lactis*, in order to obtain the second trituration, we render the groups of medicinal molecules still smaller than in the first trituration. In forming still higher triturations, a reduction in the size of the groups of medicinal molecules must be effected by each successive operation.

The philosopher will not find it difficult to believe, that this division of the medicine might take place many thousands of times, without reducing it to the indivisible particles—the proper atoms—if such exist.

What effect may such division produce in the properties of a substance? This is an inquiry interesting both to the physician and the philosopher. The philosophers of future times will gratefully acknowledge their obligations to Hahnemann, for opening this new field of in-



vestigation. It is the destiny of Homœopathia, not only to effect a glorious revolution in the art of healing, but to lead to new views of the constitution of matter. She is to become the handmaid of physical science, as well as the mistress of practical medicine. Should the great thinkers and experimenters of the age, be once prevailed on to give to the alleged facts of Homœopathy that serious consideration, and that practical examination, which the testimony now existing in favour of its alleged facts, would induce them to give to any accredited physical science, and should they ponder upon the physical aspects of this new science, a vast amount of curious truth in regard to the laws of molecular action might soon be elicited.

Most physicians have practically accorded some virtue to *comminution*. Else why do the pharmacopœias direct a small quantity of opium and ipecac. to be triturated with a large quantity of nitrate of potash, a salt which they regard as inert, but valuable in *Dover's powder*, by its hardness, in effecting the comminution of the opium? They have not so distinctly acknowledged its value in the comminution of the ipecac., nor reflected on the mechanical importance of great mass in the disintegrating agent. But still, they are generally satisfied, that there is some peculiar charm in this pulvis ipecacuanhæ compositus, and that its effect is very different from that of its components, separately triturated and simultaneously administered.

The old materia medica furnishes a striking instance of latent power developed by comminution, in the instance of *mercury*. Quicksilver, or pure mercury, when in mass, is acknowledged by the old school to be an *inert* substance, and when swallowed by ounces to produce, usually, no other than a mechanical effect.

Yet this inert substance is the active ingredient of the pilulæ hydrargyri, the blue pills. Latent mercurial power is here developed, by triturating the mercury with two or three times its weight of conserve of roses, or some mixture containing sugar, starch or mucilage. The mercurial globules are rendered invisibly small; and this minuteness is the secret of their activity.

The same explanation applies to those few cases in which some mercurial effects have been detected after the use of large quantities of the pure metal in mass. It is easy to believe that a certain portion might become *comminuted* in the stomach or intestines; especially since it has been discovered, that saline solutions, when

placed in a bottle with mercury, divide it into globules. These are coarse compared with our potences, but vary in size with different salts, as hydro-chlorate of ammonia, nitrate of potash, &c.

Even on the supposition that oxidation could take place in forming blue pill, the principal or only cause of the activity would be comminution; as is evident from the similarity of the different mercurial preparations, when given in small doses—the only case in which the proper specific effects can be eliminated and determined. Even the old-school physicians give blue pill, calomel and corrosive sublimate, almost indiscriminately when they aim at proper mercurial effects, by means of small doses. If so active an agent as chlorine is not capable of masking or essentially changing the mercurial power, what could be expected of three or four per cent. of oxygen, except to favour the comminution? In regard to exaltation of proper mercurial power—exclusive of caustic, cathartic and other extraneous properties—chlorine can act on no other principle. In the smaller doses and higher attenuations of the new school, the similarity of different mercurial preparations is still more manifest, even with that nice discrimination of medicinal properties which is peculiar to Homœopathy. The old school uses mercury much oftener, but knows much less about its medical properties.

Where is the evidence that the mercury of blue pill is oxidized? What chemist has detected the oxygen? If it existed, chemistry could separate and exhibit it. No one has pretended to do this. The pharmacutists can urge nothing but *presumptions*. Murray says, "There is every reason to believe that an oxidation of the metal is effected, and that the medicinal efficacy of the preparation depends on this oxide. Quicksilver, in its metallic state, being inert with regard to the living system, the activity of the preparation itself is a presumption of this; but it is farther known, that by agitation with atmospheric air, quicksilver affords a portion of a grey powder, soluble in muriatic acid, and which must therefore be an oxide, metallic quicksilver being insoluble in that acid." These are his reasons. They are founded on two false assumptions; the first, that the comminution of a substance can have no effect on its medicinal activity; the second, that comminution can have no effect on its solubility. At the same time he inconsistently alleges, that it is sufficient to effect its oxidation, even when the parts are "divided by the interposition of



any viscous matter." If comminuted globules, when perfectly naked, cannot be dissolved in a powerful acid, what reason is there to suppose that when enveloped in a viscid substance, almost impermeable to air, they can readily combine with atmospheric oxygen? One would suppose such an envelopement an awkward expedient for effecting their oxidation.

The *colour* of blue pill affords no evidence of oxidation. Colour, in numberless other instances, depends on division and mode of aggregation, without any change of composition; as we see in substances chemically identical, such as snow compared with water, and charcoal compared with diamond. Again, the discoloration of mercury is not proportional to the duration of exposure, but to the amount of friction, and commences almost instantaneously when the first attenuation is formed by a rapid machine. Such should not be the facts, if the discoloration depended on oxidation.

That mercury *will* in certain cases produce its specific effects *without oxidation*, is the opinion of the latest and most respectable writers on materia medica and chemistry. Pereira relates that the *vapour* from several tons of mercury in the hold of a vessel, salivated two hundred men, and destroyed all the dogs, sheep and poultry on board, and even the mice. He says, in opposition to those who had supposed an oxidation, that he "believes with Buchner, Orfila and others, that metallic mercury, in the finely divided state in which it must exist as vapour, is itself poisonous."\* Here is a distinct recognition of the power of pure mercury to produce the specific effects of blue pill. That these effects were poisonous, was owing to excessive dose. Hahnemann has taught us how to develop curative power by a still finer division, and to cure the most violent disease in a man, by a dose that would not injure a mouse. Pereira, in another passage, with some inconsistency refers to the occasional effects of masses of mercury in the bowels as resulting from oxidation. The Homœopathist, who knows how small a quantity will act, will find no difficulty in attributing them to partial comminution; especially as there may be present some saline or other substances which conduce to the detachment of globules.

Graham, one of the highest and latest authorities in chemistry, alludes to one kind of medicinal mercury which is demonstrably a pure

metal, and to mercury triturated with fat, syrup, &c.—as in forming mercurial ointment and blue pill—as undoubtedly existing in a state of *division merely*, and not of oxidation. The passage is this. "The salts of the red oxide, are reduced to the metallic state by copper and more oxidizable metals, and by the proto-compounds of tin. The precipitated mercury often presents itself as a grey powder, in which the metallic globules are not perceived, and remains in this condition while humid. Mercury in this *divided state* possesses the *medicinal qualities* of the milder mercurials, and has often been *mistaken for black oxide*." \* \* \* \* "There can be no doubt that it is in this *divided state*, and *not* as the black oxide, that mercury is obtained by *trituration* with fat, turpentine, syrup, saliva, &c., in many pharmaceutical preparations."\*

The grey powder above alluded to, will run into liquid mercury when the water evaporates. The invisible globules require for their permanent preservation a coating less volatile, as oil. This is a proof that the oxidation of mercury does not readily take place, even in this state of minute division. This also teaches us the actual function of viscid substances, in the blue pill mass, and unguentum hydrargyri. It is, to divide, and keep divided.

Hahnemann's process effects and preserves in the globules, a separation which is wider compared with their diameters, and a division inconceivably more minute, and consequently enhances—to an extent never before conceived of—their salutary energies.

If physicians in all ages had given mercury in no form but that of undivided quicksilver, and in half-pound doses, they would at this day ridicule the man, who should pretend that he had seen powerful alterative effects from the occasional repetition of three or four grain doses of blue pill, each containing one grain of divided mercury. We can conceive with what sincere contempt, those old-school, half-pound prescribers would have viewed such pretensions, when put forth by a few individuals, and with what affected contempt, and half-concealed indignation, when the new doctrine and practice was rapidly overspreading the civilized world. They would say, "It is contrary to the experience of thousands of years, to all analogy, to all reason. Away with your transcendental, infinitesimal nonsense! It is well-

\* Pereira's Materia Medica, p. 585.

\* Elements of Chemistry, by Thomas Graham, F. R. S. L. & Ed. p. 448.



known that mercury acts only by its mechanical properties—its fluidity and weight. Half a pound will force its way through the bowels, will remove obstructions and purge off the vitiated secretions. You will never clear the system by your grain doses."

To many a conservative champion of old drugs, we might say, This is your portrait and no caricature. "Name changed, the fable speaks of thee." You ridicule the alleged power of Hahnemann's comminuted mercury, simply because you and your predecessors have never tried mercury in a state of more minute division than that in which it exists in blue pill, or *hydrargyrum cum creta*. If you have developed latent power, by reducing it to globules of a certain degree of minuteness, why may not he have increased the power on the same principle, by rendering the globules still smaller? What you have imperfectly done with mercury, he has done to an extent inconceivably greater, with all his medicines. Your most comminuted medicines are coarse compared with his.

Some have gratuitously alleged, that Hahnemann's doses may answer for Germany, but not for the United States. It seems that according to some undiscovered facts, or for some unspeakable reason, the excitable Americans require large doses.

Others have argued, that the small doses can have little effect in Germany; because a man in that country once swallowed a jack-knife, and was not killed by it. As the allegation of the first party is on a par with the argument of the second, I leave them to settle their dispute, so far as it relates to medical geography.

If I may be pardoned for treating the last party's argument with all the seriousness with which it appears to have been offered, I would say; It has three fallacies. It confounds mechanical and vital effects, regarding them as varying in the same ratio; it confounds hurtful and curative effects, regarding them as varying in the same ratio; and it confounds the effects of fine powders with that of dense masses.

We might say to the whole class of similar reasoners, The pebbles in a turkey's gizzard are infinitely less coarse, compared with your medicines, than yours are compared with ours. We find finely divided quartz, i. e. *silicea*, to be a powerful medicine. You deny it for no better reason, than that its *coarser* forms are insoluble and inert. You appreciate only the chemical composition, and neglect the mechanical condition. Your blind and headlong phi-

losophy jumps to a conclusion over the wide gulf that separates the massive integral from the inconceivably comminuted.

This kind of philosophy is a hobby extremely useful for riding over facts. Some Grecian genius invented her for that purpose. Since Bacon exposed her defects, she has been in little demand except in the old medical school—a school however that can boast many true followers of Bacon, and wise observers of nature.

A practical physician, of the Baconian stamp, once remarked sarcastically, that he knew of "nobody that had so much leisure to study philosophy, as a *sitting goose*. *She had nothing to do, but to sit and think.*"

The old school is now engaged in this dignified and sublime process of *incubation*. She is taking precisely this method of hatching truth, and unhatching error. With an obstinacy and perseverance worthy of a better cause, and with eyes closed to surrounding nature, she sits on the nest and thinks; she sits and broods over lifeless stones—mistaken for eggs—in the fond hope of a progeny, which shall one day march forth upon the earth, and drive the young Homœopathic chickens back into the shell. Without stirring from her nest to examine the living creatures around her, this sedentary animal has, by the mere inherent power of reason, by long meditation, arrived at the conclusion, that those creatures are sheer phantoms. Without experiment, she has, by the mighty power of sitting without movement, and thinking with closed eyes, demonstrated that Hahnemann's egg will never hatch. Moved by compassion for her hopeless condition, and the disappointment in which her maternal solicitude must eventuate, in vain do we offer her a real egg, for *actual trial*. She rejects the proffered treasure, and repulses the benevolent donor with hisses of contempt and indignation. What has she to do, but to *sit and think*? If any one disturbs this calm and philosophical repose, and urges her to action and vision, what has she to do, but to *hiss*?

That doses of Hahnemann's attenuated medicines possess inconceivably more power than equal quantities of crude substances, is demonstrable by *experience*. Its truth can never be shaken by any theoretical objections, or any inability of its advocates to explain its reasonableness. If nature presented nothing analogous, this one fact would still stand unshaken. But there are



# REASONS WHY COMMINATION SHOULD DEVELOPE THERAPEUTIC POWER.

To break a body into fragments increases its *surface*. This augments with every succeeding fracture. A pebble of a grain weight has an immense surface when reduced to an impalpable powder, by simple friction in a mortar. But were it converted into some of the high, and inconceivably fine, preparations, by Hahnemann's process, the stony surface alone—independently of the sugar—might exceed the surface of the globe we inhabit.

The old-school physicians know nothing of the effect of such expansion; they can allege no experience. They cannot deny that such expansion may develop valuable properties in silex and other apparently inert substances, and render active drugs infinitely *more medicinal*, and infinitely *less poisonous* than in the crude state in which they administer them.

Philosophy can allege no reason against this developement, exaltation or modification of properties. *Physical science* presents many *analogous phenomena*.—A plate of mica is rendered electrical, by splitting it into thinner laminæ. The free electricity of a body is confined to the surface. The interior contains none. A hollow prime conductor can receive and retain as much free electricity as a solid one of the same superficial extent. The quantity of electricity which a given body can receive may be indefinitely increased. When a large solid ball is divided into smaller ones, much of what was interior becomes surface, and the same weight of matter can receive more electricity. A magnetic bar has no apparent magnetism in the interior, and none at the middle of its surface; but when broken in the middle, it there becomes magnetic, instantly and spontaneously. A collection of small bars at some little distance from each other, is susceptible of being rendered more powerfully magnetic than one large bar of the same weight; in other words, a small magnet can be made more powerful than a large one of the same size.

I would recommend these analogies, as "aids to reflection" for those closet speculators, who, averse to the labour of Homœopathic experiment and the light of direct observation, are sitting quietly in their shady rooms, pondering over the a priori improbability of naked facts, and, after the legitimate period, bringing forth the conclusion, that to make power out of littleness, is contrary to all reason and analogy.

A bundle of rods has been regarded as an

emblem of associated strength. But mechanical notions might often mislead in physics and therapeutics. In drawing off the electricity of a prime conductor, a single wire directed toward it at a certain distance, may have a hundred times as much power as a compact bundle of thick wires. The single point is put in a favorable state by induction; but the neighboring points by counterinductive influence mutually tend to *neutralize the action* of each other. The electroscope shows a striking contrast between the power of a solitary point, and the comparative inefficiency of many. But when the wires of the fasciculus are widely separated, and presented simultaneously, they no longer occasion this mutual neutralization, and their combined efficiency will be found to have increased, a thousand-fold or more according to their number and mutual distance. The round numbers above employed are not to be understood as the result of any calculation. Instead of exaggerating, they are far within the limits of what could be realized.

The above facts in relation to pointed conductors, and the neutral zone of a magnet, show that certain *properties* possessed by small groups of molecules are removed, *masked*, or rendered latent, by the *proximity* of similar groups. They show that properties or powers are created or *developed* by the *division* of substances, or the separation of the parts of a mass, and again destroyed or rendered latent by the reunion of those parts.

I believe this physical principle to be extremely comprehensive and important in its applications, and to afford a key to the explanation of that astonishing developement of power which takes place during the preparation of Hahnemann's attenuations. In the crude state of drugs, the medicinal power of any particle of the drug is weakened or annihilated, by the presence of many similar particles in its immediate vicinity; the particles at the *surface* being the only ones which are not thus surrounded, and consequently the only ones which possess *activity*. If a medicinal drug is by solution divided into molecules sufficiently small to be admissible into the smallest bloodvessels, and is in that state introduced into the blood, and glides along the inner coats of the vessels, making its specific electrical impression on the nerves, I believe it would be only the superficial parts of each molecule that would exert any action. The interior parts would be powerless, like the interior of an electrical ball or the middle of a magnetic bar.



This want of action would not be from want of *contact*. If absolute mathematical contact were requisite, no particle of matter could ever act on another. Neither nature nor art has ever brought two particles of matter into strict and absolute contact. That degree of proximity which produces repulsion, cohesion, affinity, or any other physical, chemical or vital action, that is not manifested at sensible distances, is called contact. When we bring the hand so near a body as to feel repulsion, we say it is in contact. This case affords man his primary idea of contact. When two polished leaden balls are by mutual pressure made to cohere, we are sure there is contact, because we felt repulsion, both prior and subsequent to the coherence. Yet there is no absolute contact in these cases. By a still stronger pressure, the hand may be brought still nearer the ball, the balls still nearer each other. All action is at some distance, though that distance is sometimes infinitesimal.

The surface of a medicinal particle may act when within a certain distance of the nerve; the whole interior might be inert, though it were brought much nearer the nerve than the surface is when the surface acts.

If this is so, it explains *why division gives power*; for it gives greater surface. If we reduce the diameter to a thousandth part, we increase the total surface a thousand-fold, if to a millionth a million-fold, &c.

Of all artificial methods of minutely dividing matter, that of Hahnemann is the most efficient; and effects a comminution otherwise unattainable by art. Why then is it incredible that it should have developed powers never before dreamed of? Who can say that if ponderable matter were made sufficiently fine, it would not exhibit as astonishing powers as light, caloric or electricity? Who can say that these imponderable agents do not derive their activity from that very circumstance?

The higher attenuations are, in one sense, *imponderable* agents. Their medicinal part has no appreciable weight. Like light, caloric and electricity, they possess great activity. Like them they can never accumulate in the system in ponderable, poisonous masses. Like heat and electricity, they escape as readily as they entered. They leave none of their material to clog or corrode the machinery.

A man betrays great ignorance, who accuses an acknowledged Hahnemannian of charging the system with poisons or with leaving it *charged* with anything. He might as well

suppose that a man lately arrived from a hot and distant country had, during his residence there, become more and more charged with heat, and had brought an excessive quantity of it with him; or that a metallic conductor by the frequent transmission of electricity, becomes thereby charged with lightning; or that a three days' speaker in Congress must sit down full of wind; or that a steam engine by long working becomes charged with steam, or an undershot wheel with water.

These last agents are analogous to the comminuted medicines, in regard to the non-lodgement of material. In another respect, the comparison fails. The action is not mechanical, but vital; not a gross impulse, but a delicate influence; not proportional to mass, but to activity. It is the action of an imponderable agent on the imponderable elements of life.

I believe, that the principle thus applied to the developement of medicinal power, presents no anomaly, but is applicable to other properties, as well in the nascent as in the evanescent condition of bodies.

Minute microscopic bodies in their nascent state, often exhibit properties which are masked by the presence of additional particles, whenever the dimensions have increased to a certain extent. I have seen this beautifully exhibited in *crystallizable* substances in solution. When one part of saturated tincture of camphor is mixed with five parts of alcohol, and the crystallization observed with a solar microscope, the smallest nascent crystals which are visible, are seen to approach each other by mutual attraction, and to rotate on their axes, so as to unite by their mutually attractive poles. These compound groups then present similar phenomena, in their mutual approach, their rotation and union. I have witnessed similar phenomena in nitrate of silver and other crystals. Large crystals of the same substances exhibit no such attraction or polarity. Even ice, which in large masses has no magnetism, may exhibit magnetic properties when beginning to form minute crystals in the atmosphere.

The theory of potentization, so far as above given, consists of two parts; one relating to comminution, as the result of certain processes; the other, to power as the result of comminution.

I have shown; First, that Hahnemann's processes produce a comminution almost infinitely surpassing any which is practicable by any other method; Secondly, that comminution develops latent power.



I have incidentally alluded to another advantage which comminuted medicines possess, in the delicacy of the human organism. The invisible vessels and pores are, in all probability, inconceivably more numerous and minute than the visible ones. It may be in these narrow recesses of the system, that nature carries on her most important operations, and disease lays her foundations. To modify those operations, and overturn those foundations, it may be important, that the medicine should enter straits impassable and chambers inaccessible, by any substances whose parts are as gross as those of ordinary powders and solutions. For this additional reason, the powders and solutions prepared by Hahnemann's method—which divides the medicine into parts inconceivably smaller—may possess peculiar power. The comminution effected in ordinary medicines by solution in the mouth, the stomach and the blood, leaves them coarse in comparison with medicines which may be prepared by Hahnemann's processes.

There is still another advantage which small medicinal particles may have over large ones: viz. that when in contact with any living part, the *average distance* of their whole surface—as well as substance—from the points of contact, is less than it would be if they were in one group. This advantage might be very great, if medicinal action, like other forces, varies inversely as the square, or some higher power of the distance.

In endeavouring to explain the efficiency of Hahnemann's potences, I have, hitherto, not specially adverted to the distinction between *liquid* and *dry* preparations. We find repeated solution with succussion, and repeated mixture with trituration, to develop similar powers, and have reason to believe the principles similar. *As a part of the theory of potentization*, I shall attempt to give a

#### THEORY OF SOLUTION.

It is generally believed, that the simple solution of a medicine, effects the minutest division of it which is practicable, and that no dilution of any dissolved substance, can divide its parts into parts still smaller. In calling in question the correctness of this notion, I am aware of the strength of the *prejudices* to be encountered—prejudices both of the senses and intellect. For deciding such a point, there is no adequate delicacy in human vision nor in the instruments of physical research; nor is the human mind so constituted, as to be capable of any adequate conception of the minuteness of ulti-

mate atoms, or of the infinite diversity of magnitude existing among infinitesimals. When a body is divided into parts so small as to elude microscopic vision and our most delicate tests, it is difficult to conceive of any farther division. Yet these parts may still be divided such an inconceivable number of times, that we may call the number infinite. The change thus produced in a medicine may be appreciated by means of those nerves on which it has a specific action, but not by means of any instrument less delicate.

The unparalleled *sensibility* of these nervous electroscopes or pharascopes, is exemplified in the powerful action of some homœopathic solutions, in which the chemist, with his comparatively coarse—but in his own estimation most delicate—tests, can detect no medicine, and in which he could detect none, were they concentrated millions of millions of times. Yet millions of persons, including Homœopathic physicians and their patients, have repeatedly experienced the efficiency of such attenuations. The number, competency, integrity and unanimity of the witnesses, are such as would secure the reception of their testimony on any other subject.

If we can sufficiently divest our own minds of the prejudices of the grosser senses, let us imagine a saturated aqueous solution of any salt, to consist of hard, solid masses of salt, suspended at equal distances in the water, which exceeds the salt in quantity. Each mass of salt consists of innumerable particles. It is impossible to make them smaller either by the continued action of the affinity of the water, or by any mechanical force, whilst the *quantity of water* remains the same. If they were sundered, they would instantly reunite. For, any division of the solids into smaller solids, would diminish their mutual distance, and consequently increase their mutual attraction; whilst the quantity of water which surrounds each mass is diminished in quantity, and hence has less attractive force to resist the reunion of the solids, than it had when they were in larger masses; and even then it was but just sufficient to keep them separate. Therefore any division would be followed by instantaneous reunion, both on account of an increase in the cohesive forces, and a diminution of affinity.

Another piece of salt cannot be dissolved in the water, for the same reason that the pieces already in it cannot be divided; that is, the saline masses cannot be suspended within a *given distance*.



Heat expands the liquid and increases the solvent power, partly by weakening cohesion, and partly by removing the solids to a *greater distance* from each other, so that new solids may be received. Either evaporation or cold reduces their distance and effects their reunion and precipitation.

Thus the hypothesis of a suspension in complex groups, each consisting of numerous particles, is in strict accordance with the known phenomena of solution.

It is also analogous to the doctrines of modern *chemistry* in relation to the union of molecules in all compounds. Simple molecules unite to form compound ones; and in many instances it requires the union of many atoms of each constituent to form the smallest possible particle of a given compound. In the most attenuated solution, this compound, as it is not decomposed, must exist in groups which are large compared with atoms. For convenience, I use the language of the atomic theory: upon the truth of this, however, my hypothesis does not depend; any more than the truth that the great constituents of the universe are arranged in groups, depends upon the solution of the question whether the division of matter must ultimately attain a limit, or whether even the moon is or is not an atom.

*Astronomy* presents facts analogous to those supposed in the above hypothesis of solutions. The worlds of the universe are separated by large interstices. Two nebulae may appear to our eyes as homogeneous as a solution; and yet each is a group of solar and planetary groups, whose mutual distances are inconceivably great compared with that of the planets of each group, and yet inconceivably small compared with the distance of the nebulae. A nebula is a single body, in a truer sense than are two stars of different nebulae. The solar system is one thing in a stricter sense than are two planets of different systems. So I have referred to the groups in a solution as bodies, because widely separated as compared with their components. It is possible that there may be included in each group—as there are in a nebula—different orders of groups, which determine the points of easier division. We know that to be to a certain extent true in chemical compounds, as solution does not divide them in all parts indiscriminately, else it would destroy their peculiar chemical properties.

I have hitherto considered saturated solutions. Before proceeding to attenuation in any

higher sense, I will—for those who may not consider the subject too dry, and who desire the most precise ideas—explain more fully some of the molecular actions above referred to.

What is cohesion? When are molecules united in one group? When is the group divided? In what sense is medicinal power at the surface?

Cohesion is attraction between bodies or particles of the same kind at insensible distances. In molecular action, I make no attempt to distinguish the cases in which polarity is manifest, as in crystals; for all cohesion may depend on the polarity and even the magnetism of molecules.

If a group of atoms exists as a little solid body in a solution, and we are able, by adding more liquid to break it into two groups or bodies, in what sense are they two until they get beyond the sphere of cohesion? If still in contact, they are one group. In the mechanics of infinitesimal bodies, we must use the term contact in a stricter sense. The contact of the infinitesimal solid parts of a solution, is such a degree of proximity as excludes the solvent liquid.

The view which I take—and which is calculated to remove one of the greatest obstacles to the reception of Homœopathic truth—is, that the ultimate particles of a dissolved medicine are not separately invested with the menstruum or solvent liquid, but united in hard and complex masses—masses which, in a saturated tincture or solution, are of great magnitude and little activity, when compared with those in Hahnemann's attenuations. The free medicinal agency resides exclusively at the surface of the group, the latent at the surface of each particle. I make no attempt to decide, whether the medicinal power is or is not a modification of electricity or magnetism; or whether, like the former, it resides on the whole surface, or, like the latter, on certain parts. On either supposition, division will have a similar effect in increasing the extent of active surface. Electricity and magnetism are known to be in one sense identical, but to avoid circumlocution they are referred to as distinct.

You will readily anticipate the application of the above principles to *attenuations*. When a drop of pure tincture is shaken with ninety-nine of alcohol, the newly added alcohol exerts its affinity as an antagonist to the cohesion of the solid medicinal groups, and effects their



dismemberment to a greater extent than was possible in the primary solution. This process commences instantly, before the diffusion is complete. But to simplify the investigation, let us suppose the drop to be uniformly diffused before any disintegration of the groups commences. The groups would be at nearly five times their original distance, and each group would be surrounded by one hundred times as much alcohol as in the primary tincture. This state of things could not remain a moment; especially if the disruptive power of the affinity of this increased quantity of alcohol, were aided by a mechanical succussion, as strong as that to which the tincture had been subjected. For the equilibrium before existing between cohesion and affinity, will be disturbed by that increase of the latter which results from the increase of the liquid; and the suspended solids will each be sundered into numerous smaller solids. But it is not divided into its smallest particles; nor could it be by the most violent succussion. The vibrations caused by jars, transiently increase the distance of some particles of each group and approximate them to the liquid, and thus give affinity a preponderance over cohesion. In this way succussion aids division. But to carry division by this means beyond a certain point, effects no permanent change; as the particles will instantly reunite by the preponderance of cohesion over affinity. As power is developed on a similar principle by successive dilutions, it is unnecessary to pursue this subject any farther.

Power is developed on the same principle as in dry preparations. The affinity of the liquid enables us to dispense with part of the mechanical force: yet all that I have said in regard to the relative labour of comminuting by Hahnemann's method as compared with any former one, applies equally to liquid preparations.

His *discovery* of a new law in the science of therapeutics, and his *invention* of a new process in the art of pharmacy, have led to unprecedented results. The most insoluble bodies are dissolved, inert substances rendered medicinal, and the most virulent poisons harmless; whilst drugs of intermediate activity have their salutary powers exalted, and their noxious effects obviated.

The main *objects* of this discourse, have been to show, That small doses are efficacious when given in accordance with the Homœopathic law; That medicines prepared by Hahnemann's process are in a state of extremely mi-

nute division; That on this comminution their peculiar efficacy depends; And that the development of power by separation of parts is not an anomaly, but is in accordance with known laws of nature.

Just as the printing of the above paper is nearly completed, I find in the Bridgewater treatise of Dr. Prout—than whom few have more profoundly studied the molecular constitution of bodies—the following passage, which is in accordance with some of the above views.

"In this respect, therefore, the views we have advanced accord generally with those at present entertained; and the only point in which they differ, is in supposing that the self-repulsive molecule, as it exists in the gaseous form, does not represent the ultimate molecule, but is composed of many of them. With respect to the nature of the ultimate sub-molecules of those bodies which we consider at present as elements, as, for instance, of oxygen, they may naturally be supposed to possess the most intense properties or polarities. Indeed such sub-molecules may be imagined to resemble in some degree the imponderable matters, heat, &c., not only by their extreme tenuity, but in other characters also; and this very intensity of property and character may be reasonably considered as one, if not the principal reason, why they are incapable of existing in a detached form. Lastly, are not these ultimate and refined forms of matter extensively employed in many of the operations of nature, and particularly in many of the processes of organization." B. F. J.

7, Amity Street, March 27th, 1847.

#### DR. STEARNS AND THE NEW YORK ACADEMY.

*Review of "An Address delivered on the occasion of assuming the chair, as President at the first regular meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, February 3d, 1847. By JOHN STEARNS, M. D. [Published by order of the Academy.]"*

The Rev. Dr. Whately says, "in proportion as any great measure gains ground in public estimation—in proportion as it tends to overthrow prevailing errors—in the same degree it may be expected to call forth angry declamation from those who are wedded to prejudices they cannot defend." The truth of this remark is exemplified in the violent and intolerant manner in which Allopathy has borne



herself lately against her great rival Homœopathy, as the latter has gained ground in public estimation. But a few years ago our Allopathic brethren, albeit they did not believe in our doctrines, yet they willingly met us in counsel at the bedside of the sick, though we could not agree as to the medical treatment. In that respect, differing kindly, we nevertheless could agree as to the seat and nature of the disease. But within the last year they have grown bitter, unjust and abusive. They have formed themselves into an association and styled it *the New York Academy of Medicine*—made it a prominent rule that no Homœopathist should be eligible to membership—and that no member should consult with a Homœopathist. The reason for this intolerant act can alone be found in the fact, that Homœopathy with the public is rapidly gaining ground, and they would stop or cripple it in its advance. They would assume that they are the regular descendants of Esculapius—that all who are not of their way of thinking are “irregulars,” no matter how well educated; and they would appropriate, all the facts which have been brought to light for the last five hundred years in anatomy, surgery, chemistry, physiology and pathology, while our school studies and adopts them all. This truly absurd assumption reminds us of the St. Regis Indians in Canada. In the midst of their wigwam stands a stately stone building with a tall steeple, but of which edifice, not one of them has been either directly or indirectly instrumental in laying a single stone. If by chance you should meet one of that tribe away from his home, and enquire whence he comes, he will answer thus: “Do you know that large stone church in St. Regis?” and if you shall nod assent, then, with look of swelling assumption, he will reply, “*That’s me.*” It has been said by an eminent Allopathic physician, “very few of the valuable discoveries in medicine have been made by physicians; they have been either the effect of chance or necessity, and have always been opposed by the faculty, till every one else was convinced of their importance.” This address of Dr. Stearns, is no doubt the embodied spirit of the new Academy. Instead of looking within and seeking what weaknesses need strengthening—what practices need reforming, he at once commences his attack upon things without, and the reader feels at once that they are the besieged, and the Academy is the house of refuge. He informs the Society that every age has had

its impostors in medicine, and that by them, human life has been sacrificed by thousands. *What has Allopathy been about all this time?* She has been in existence ever since quackery had its birth. If there were healing in her touch, why do people madly wander off in search of health, even to impure sources? They love health, as they love life. But the worthy President would have us believe that Allopathy has stood by all this time with arms folded, waiting to be invoked to give the blessing. He says, “Thousands have already fallen a sacrifice to these multiplied impostures, whose blood is daily invoking the aid of the medical profession to arrest their progress. Duty to God, to the profession, to the memory of the fallen victims, and to mankind, compel us to respond favourably to the invocation.” He admits that medicine in the dark ages was not reliable, and thinks under such circumstances there was some apology for imposture and for a deluded people. But “when medical science assumes a prominent place in the Temple of Fame—when the practice of physic and surgery never before attained to such unrivalled success—when diseases, before deemed incurable, now promptly yield to the skill of the scientific and judicious practitioner—when surgery has attained an unrivalled eminence in the performance of operations deemed impossible, until their perfect success was practically demonstrated by some of our own members, who have thereby justly earned imperishable renown—when a thirst for improvement in science, literature, and the arts, pervades every class in society,—then, at this enlightened period of the world, arose a Hahnemann.” This, to the worthy self-satisfied President, is an astounding fact, that a man having common sense should imagine, that in the midst of such a galaxy of medical splendour he could add one more ray of light, or that more light was needed. We would inform the learned President that though Anatomy, Surgery, Physiology, Chemistry and Pathology may have advanced, that Therapeutics had stood still—that the art of curing stands where it stood five hundred years ago, and that when the learned President points to the triumph of Surgery, it does not help his case. Riel, in speaking of modern practice, says: “I have long enough been tossed on the sea of unfounded hypothesis to feel convinced that absolute darkness prevails in the medical practice.” Boerhaave calls the physician a fortunate man, if positively he does not injure his patient. Here indeed is a



loud call for reformation; and, in this branch, a demand for the genius and wisdom of Hahnemann. Speaking of innovators, the learned President says, "some of these innovators, just arrived in the scientific world, and disgusted with a science which they admit they never practiced, and consequently could not comprehend." We cannot believe the learned President here refers to Hahnemann. We suppose he is too well read to be ignorant of the life of so distinguished a medical man; and, we hope, above the meanness of insinuating a falsehood to gain at most, a temporary end. Hahnemann studied medicine as a profession, practiced Allopathically for many years, but his acute mind perceived and lamented its weakness, before he made his great discovery of the law of cure, which paled that lesser light which has so dazzled the eyes of the worthy President. The learned and accomplished Dr. Forbes, though in the front rank of Allopathy, speaking of Hahnemann, says, "he was undoubtedly a man of genius and a scholar." The learned President is certainly very apt in his figure, when he says "the system is now flowing in upon us in torrents—not like those genial showers, which invigorate and refresh the mown grass, but which, possessed of lethal qualities, bear a stronger resemblance to those which inundated and desolated two ancient cities." Homœopathy is destined to drown out Allopathy, because it is a universal law that truth will prevail. And when we consider the rapidity of its advance, both in the East and in the West, it indeed seems to move something like a torrent—because the age is enlightened. It cannot descend like gentle dew upon Allopathy, for its stern and naked facts are opposed to its theories and hypotheses, and it is bound to produce a radical change in the theory and practice of medicine. The feeblest part of this intellectual effort is, when the President attempts to analyse the doctrines of Hahnemann. In the effort, we did not expect to see our system tremble to its base, but we did expect to see the Doctor's hand at least laid upon it; but to our surprise he touched it not; no, not so much as even with the tip of his finger. He entirely misapprehends the doctrines of Hahnemann. He says, "reason teaches me that the power of any remedial agent essentially depends on the number of grains, ounces, or pounds of which that agent consists. But Hahnemann contradicts this position, and maintains directly the reverse, and asserts that the power of that agent is increased precisely in proportion to

the subdivision, the comminution or dilution of its component parts." We would ask what power the worthy President means. There is more than one kind of power; there is a mechanical power and a remedial power: but he illustrates his meaning. He says, "if one pound of gunpowder will propel a cannon ball one mile, the millionth part of a grain would carry it round the globe, and produce the greatest possible destruction of life." This is an illustration of mechanical power. In no work of Hahnemann's can such absurdity and nonsense be found. Would Dr. Stearns assert that a remedial power of a remedial agent essentially depends upon the number of grains, ounces or pounds; that is to say, if one grain of calomel will cure, that a pound will make a better cure? We should almost be led to infer that the Allopathic school, heretofore, had adopted that belief, from the quantity of medicine given; but, thanks to Homœopathy, they have now altered the rule, and are ready to declare "that they do not give as much medicine as formerly." The worthy President and his Academy like not the restless movements and matter of fact spirit of our age. We say, thanks to this spirit. Introduced into the sciences, it has superseded the reign of opinions by that of observation, and has caused them to make more progress in fifty years than they had done before since the beginning of the world. They feel as if they were left behind in this onward march of improvement, and they exclaim against it as an innovation—would erect ramparts to stay its progress, at least among themselves. While they consulted with the Homœopathist, they had some opportunity of hearing the truth; but that way is now closed up by this Academy. It has been well remarked, "that few improvements are expected from a man who dreads he might ruin his character by even the smallest deviation from the established rule." We believe that this Academy is an iron net-work, thrown over the heads of those who enter it, and will insure one universal dead level; beyond this iron fixture they will never look. We are sorry for them, for they have heads that deserve a better fate. In corroboration of this state of things, we must again quote our learned President: "The present all-absorbing propensity for innovation, indicating danger to the community, and degradation to that noble science which it is our professed object to cultivate and improve, calls loudly for some efficient ramparts to protect and shield its vital principles against



every grade of amalgamation with the popular delusions of empiricism. Do not the state of the public mind, and the signs of the times in both the religious and medical world, indicate an approaching period when it will be inscribed over the portals of the halls of science, 'Ilium fuit?'

We expected from a school which employs large and poisonous doses—in a school which seeks to produce effects on the parts that are healthy to draw off actions from parts that are diseased—that they would endeavour to make abundant sport of the small doses administered by the Homœopathists, and would hold them up in comparison with their Heroic practice, without an allusion to the difference of principle upon which those doses are prescribed. For this we were prepared, but we must confess we did not expect that the spirit of partizanship would hurry them to the assertion of an untruth. Yet Dr. Stearns, with an inconsistency we cannot explain, derides our practice on the grounds of infinitesimal doses, and in the next paragraph asserts "that poisons and narcotics constitute the corner-stone of the Homœopathic edifice—the alleviation of pain by narcotics gives to their practice all its popularity." In this utterly false statement, he thereby admits that our practice is popular, and that our doses will alleviate pain.

How hard it is for the human mind to change opinions and habits of thought which it has pursued for years. After it has reached a certain period, we believe it cannot be corrected even by the evidence of the senses. Having ears they *cannot* hear; eyes and *cannot* see. It is a well ascertained fact of the medical men, great and small, cotemporaries of Harvey, not one who had reached the age of forty when his great discovery of the circulation of the blood was announced, but who died opposing it. The cotemporaries of Galileo would not look through his telescope, when invited, asserting that it was contrary to the laws of vision; and the New York Academy and their worthy President *will not look into* Homœopathy, but assert it is contrary to reason.

And they know nothing of its internal evidence, and the external evidence they reject; for the venerable President sees that the popular feeling is with Homœopathia and admits in, and, like Pharaoh, he is hardened. He says, "I have often heard it asserted that the clergy are advocates of Homœopathy." This he knows to be a fact. He knows that the clergy, as a body, are intelligent and well-

educated—trained to reason. He knows that from the nature of their profession, they are brought into contact with the sick more than any other class of the community save the physician; and that it is not to the sick under one treatment that he is called, but to those under every treatment, and his evidence should have weight with an unprejudiced mind. How does the President receive their testimony in favor of Homœopathia?—

He puts back to them this question: "How can a religious man support a system which places reason and common sense at defiance, and which rests exclusively on the vagaries of a visionary enthusiast?"

"The general avowal of such principles would subvert all true religion and civil government, and lead to consequences appalling to all reflecting minds."

This seems to us like the ravings of a disordered mind; and if this is a fair specimen of the logic, and wisdom, and spirit of the New York Academy, then, indeed, in a few more years, will the fears of its President be realized, and it will be inscribed over the portal of their Hall,—*"ILIUM FUT."*

#### TREATMENT OF CHILDREN.

We intended to treat more fully of the diseases of children and their management in this volume; but other subjects of more immediate importance have claimed our columns.

We hoped, especially, to speak of diet and exercise. These are two important subjects connected with the management of children, and should be urged upon the attention of parents. Exercise in pure air is absolutely essential to strength and vigor of constitution. The too prevalent practice of confining young children in warm and not well ventilated rooms is reprehensible; and the means for giving them that exercise which nature indicates and demands are by far too limited. They have been too much dependent on the attention and direct physical exertions of mothers and nurses for any training of this sort, and they are consigned to the cradle or the sitting stool, by way of relief to the tiresome and fatiguing necessity of "tending the baby."

We have seen in use a contrivance, which in our opinion is admirably adapted to afford the means of exercise so much needed, and to obviate many of the difficulties of which we complain. By means of an elastic (Indian



rubber) strap, suspended from the ceiling, to which is appended a dress to fit the waist, and straps for its support—affording an unconstrained position—the child is enabled to toss and dangle itself; thus relieving the nurse of this irksome and requisite operation, and is a great saving of time to the “baby tender.” It is left the free use of its limbs, by which it secures to itself amusement and exercise; and is enabled to escape from the pernicious passivity, confinement *and rocking* of the cradle. To those whose time is valuable, and to the poor, who are compelled to take care of their own infants, the contrivance must be invaluable.

They are fitted up, some in an elegant and costly manner, while others are at a price within the reach of all. We regard it as an ingenious and valuable invention, and think its use cannot be too general: this should always be in a well-aired room, or in the open air.

It may be seen and procured at No. 309, Broadway.

#### TRAUMATIC TETANUS.

The following case was reported to the New York Homœopathic Society by Dr. Kirby. By resolution of the Society, its publication in the American Journal of Homœopathy, was requested.

“In January last a case of this disease occurred in my practice, in the person of a young miss, aged nine years. She had been suffering for two or three days with neuralgic pains in the neck, arms, legs and lower part of the abdomen, with stiffness of the jaws; also entire loss of appetite and sleep. When I first saw her, the above symptoms were present with a permanent contraction of the flexor muscles of the extremities; and occasionally a rigidity of the neck, with a tendency to opisthotonos. The cause of this condition was not known at this time. The pain was terrific,—causing the most heart-rending moanings and screams. The paroxysms would come at irregular periods. The intermissions sometimes only a few minutes; at other times, an hour or two. The paroxysms would last from half to two, three, and even more hours. Sometimes they would seem to be brought on, and increased, by movement—occasionally movement would mitigate the sufferings, or cause them to subside altogether. During the paroxysms the pain was increased by touch. Aconite, Bella-

donna and Pulsatilla had been given her previously to my first visit, but without any perceptible relief. I gave Rhus: tox: 30, after which she had no pains for about four hours; when they returned with equal violence. Rhus: was repeated, but with less favorable effect.

“I remained with my patient the whole night—she slept in all about two hours. She took a single dose of *sulphur*, and two or three doses of *pulsatilla*, with no apparent improvement. The following morning her sufferings were increased, if possible, in violence. The muscles of the neck, extremities, and abdomen became more rigid, and stiffness of the jaws returned. *Belladonna* in solution, 3d att., was given, and often repeated. The stiffness of the jaws and rigidity of the muscles of the neck went off in about two hours, and never returned. In other respects she was the same. In the evening of this day, a consultation was had with my colleague, Dr. Snow. In conversation with the patient and her mother, he related a case of similar sufferings in a child, from a wound by a needle in the knee joint. Immediately our patient exclaimed that she had run a needle into the joint of the great toe of the right foot, about two days previously to the pains coming on. On examination, the toe was found to be sore, and touching it, or any of the parts about it, would induce a paroxysm.

“The nature of the case was now apparent. An Arnica poultice was applied to the part, and Arnica administered internally in alternation with Rhus: tox: The paroxysms were now diminished in frequency and in intensity. [Staphysagria was given, but with no perceptible effect.] The patient continued gradually to improve under the above treatment; sleep and appetite returned, and a dose of Sulph: 30, followed in 24 hours by a single dose of Rhus: tox: 30, completed the cure in about six days from my first visit.”

#### BROMINE IN CROUP.

We have received a communication from Wm. E. Payne, M. D., of Bath, Me., on the use of Bromine in Croup. He details a case which was promptly cured by its timely administration. We have not room for the paper in this number of our Journal.

### JAHR'S NEW MANUAL.

The publication of this important work progresses. No. 2 is out and ready for sale.

The names connected with the translator's should be a guarantee of the fidelity of the translation, and by some of them the work will be enriched by contributions of useful facts.

It will furnish the most extensive and complete history of drugs which it is possible at present to have, and will be a great addition to that already in the hands of the profession,

The characteristic of our materia medica is, that it is an accumulation of well-ascertained facts, which are the pride and boast of the Homœopathist; and we earnestly hope everything of a speculative and theoretical character will be carefully excluded from it.

Positive knowledge is all that can be of value, and it alone ought to find its way into a work of this kind. There are other and more appropriate places for theories and speculations.

This enterprise on the part of Mr. Radde is of vast importance to our profession. It must involve great expense, and we hope he will, as he richly deserves, be fully sustained.

### NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

This is an establishment of great importance to our school. To be able to obtain pure medicine, in the different states of preparation used in the Homœopathic practice, and at an expense which supercedes the necessity of the physician's attempting the preparation of them himself is a great desideratum. Mr. Smith is, we understand, running up to the highest degrees of dynamization, some of the medicines in more common use. Those imported a year or two since by Dr. Hempel, have, we believe, been mostly disposed of by Messrs. Radde and Smith, to physicians throughout the country. A vast amount of time and labor is requisite to the making of these potencies. This, together with the cost of importation, and the high duties charged, made the German preparations costly. We have used the attenuations of Mr. Smith, and have every reason to rely upon their strength and purity. He is an intelligent and thoroughly careful Pharmaceutist, and is entitled to the full confidence of the profession.

The friends of Homœopathy in Washington, D. C., can obtain this Journal, by leaving their names with W. ADAMS, of that city.

Those who read *Dr. Joslin's Discourse* will please correct the following *typographical errors* :—

Page 271. For "*nitrate*," read *sulphate*.

" 272. For "*was rapidly*," read *were rapidly*.

" 273. For "*Its truth*," read *This truth*.

" 274. For "*a small magnet*," read *small magnets*.

We have received a communication from Mr. Radde, on the subject of the reply of Dr. Humphreys to Dr. Hempel's review of his (Dr. F.'s) translation of the *Symptomen-Codex* of Jahr, intended to correct one or two statements which Dr. F. is said to have erroneously made. We have not room for the communication. Mr. Radde claims to have advertised the publication of the work in the *Examiner*, and only delayed getting it out in order to make, if possible, an arrangement with the English publisher, and to receive contributions which he had been promised from prominent physicians of the school.

Our readers will perceive, that we have given them double the usual quantity of matter in this number of the Journal. This has been done to make room for the able address of Dr. Joslin, which, we do not doubt, will be acceptable to the friends of Homœopathy. This paper of Dr. J's., should not only be read, but studied. The style he has adopted in its composition, is not only clear, but fascinating—abounding in wit. The unscientific and shallow objections to Homœopathy, by Allopathic physicians, are fully stated and exposed.

As the next number of the Journal completes the first volume, we hope we may be excused for again reminding those who have not paid, that it would greatly oblige us to receive the price of subscription. We shall commence the new volume on the first of May, and we trust, the friends of Homœopathy will give it an extended circulation. It is our object and purpose, without regard to any personal considerations, to make the Journal a means for the diffusion of the principles of Homœopathy, and the advancement of its interests. At the price at which it is published, no profit can accrue from it, and we hope the profession, equally with ourselves, will feel interested in aiding its success. With scarce an effort, every physician might, as many have, give us a number of lay subscribers, and find their own interests promoted.



The friends of Homœopathy in Philadelphia can have this Journal delivered at their houses, on the day of publication, by leaving their names with C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North Fourth Street.

#### BONNINGHAUSEN'S THERAPEUTIC POCKET-BOOK.

Just received, a few copies of "Bonninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket-Book for Homœopathists; to be used at the bedside of the patient and in the study of the *Materia Medica*." Edited by A. Howard Okie, M.D., translator of "Hartmann's Remedies," "Ruoff's Repertory," &c. &c.

For sale at SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY, 488 Broadway. Price \$1.25.

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

#### SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY AT THE Apollo Rooms, 410 Broadway. Open daily (Sunday excepted,) at 12, M.

Physicians in attendance, Mondays and Thursdays, Drs. Kirby and Barlow; Tuesdays, Drs. Cook and Snow; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Drs. Quin and Bowers; Fridays, Drs. Bayard and Allen.

#### CLEVELAND HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Up stairs, corner Superior st. and Public Square. B. H. BARTLETT respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines; Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Hering's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's *Materia Medica*, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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VOL. I.

New York, Saturday, April 17, 1847.

NO. 24.

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D. AND R. A. SNOW, M. D., EDITORS.

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DEAN, PRINTER, 2 ANN-ST.

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This JOURNAL will be issued every two weeks, at One Dollar a year, in advance. City subscribers will be regularly served at their residences by sending their names to the Editors.

☞ Subscriptions received and copies sold at Smith's Pharmacy, 488 Broadway; at Radde's, 322 Broadway.

Country subscribers can have the Journal sent to them by mail, on the above terms.

All communications must be addressed, (post paid) to the Editors, 311 or 736 Broadway.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1847.

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## AGENTS.

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George Jones, Albany.

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Dr. C. F. Harris, Binghampton, N. Y.

John Walker, Liverpool, England.

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## TO OUR READERS.

This number completes the first volume of the Journal. The first number of the second volume will appear on the first of May next, and it will be published regularly there-

after on the first and third Saturdays of each month.

We avail ourselves of the occasion to express our thanks to subscribers who have aided us beyond our expectations in this enterprise. Physicians generally of our school have manifested an interest in the success and permanent prosperity of this Journal, which we notice with peculiar regard.

Our great object has been to propagate the doctrines established by Hahnemann, aid the advancement of the principles and practice of the homœopathic art, and to awaken the attention of the general reader to subjects of vital importance to health and life; and thereby promote what is demanded, a reformation in medicine, upon a firm and enduring basis, which is found in the truth of those great principles we advocate.

Since we commenced the publication of this Journal, we have been in constant communication with physicians in all parts of the country, who assure us of the rapid spread of the principles and practice of the homœopathic science and art. Physicians of the old school here and there, are investigating the claims of homœopathy, and as a consequence become convinced of its truth. The public is awake to its interests in this subject, and the supply of regularly and thoroughly educated practitioners is not equal to the demand. We hope that something will be done to meet the wants of the people in this respect; and we look to the next session of the "American Institute of Homœopathy" to be held in June next in Boston, to devise suitable measures for a more thorough and extended propagation of medical science.

The time has arrived for united action—much is yet to be accomplished. The great battle between allopathy and homœopathy is to be fought in this country—the signs of the times so indicate.



Our school was never in a better condition, nor in a more favorable position to meet the extraordinary movements now being made in opposition to it. The school of homœopathy was never more united in doctrine and practice; while on the contrary, the school of allopathy was never more divided in doctrine and practice. Those who know most of the former, have confidence in it; whilst those who know most of the latter, have no confidence in it.

Although our number is comparatively small, yet aided by the power of truth, a final victory is certain.

The unparalleled triumph of the Homœopathic practice, wherever it has been introduced, cannot fail to arrest the attention of the thinking and intelligent portion of the community. It is to be regretted that any should combine to debar themselves from the advantages which a knowledge of it inevitably confers, and in vain efforts to stay the progress of a great good to mankind. But a science, based upon natural laws and susceptible of complete demonstration, will triumph despite the obstacles opposed to it.

### THE NEW YORK HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY.

This Institution was established in September 1845, by S. R. Kirby, M.D., P. P. Wells, M. D., and James M. Quin, M.D., and the first patient was received on the first day of October following.

The Dispensary was open for one hour daily and the three physicians were in attendance each day. After the commencement of the undertaking, a circular was addressed to the laity, asking their support and setting forth the terms of subscription. The daily attendance was found to be too great a tax on the time of gentlemen engaged in the constant practice of their profession, and to obviate this difficulty as well as to bring greater interest and efficiency to bear, the following gentlemen were associated with the founders of the Institution. S. B. Barlow, M.D., Edward Bayard, M.D., B. F. Joslin, M.D., Geo. W. Cook, M.D., B. F. Bowers, M.D., R. A. Snow, M.D., and Jas. Hart Allen, M.D.

This is the first and only institution of the kind established in the United States. The attempt to afford homœopathic treatment to the

poor by means of a public dispensary, was in this country, an experiment untried. Many who wished well to the undertaking, feared that the time had not yet come when it could be carried into operation. But we believed that the best interest of humanity demanded that no time should be lost in endeavoring to diffuse a great blessing among the poor, to save them from the ruinous consequences of excessive medication, to cure their diseases and yet not impair their constitutions. When we considered that the poor can ill afford, in the midst of their privations, to lose or postpone that greatest boon vouchsafed by God to man—health, without which, they are poor indeed; when we considered that homœopathia is systematically excluded from all the charitable institutions of this city, with the exception of the Protestant Half Orphan Asylum, where its superiority has been triumphantly demonstrated, we determined forthwith to commence the experiment of this institution and to abide the issue. To this enterprise we have thus far given not only our time, but our money, aided by a few well wishers who have contributed a small part of the funds necessary to the support of the Dispensary.

We believe the number of its supporters would have been much larger, and the subscriptions sufficient to defray all expenses, had the fact of its existence been more generally known, and its claims to public confidence and support fairly presented.

The usefulness of this Institution has been lessened from the fact of its not having been in our power to command a convenient and prominent location, and from our having been more than once driven to the necessity of making a change. This unfortunately tended to withdraw our institution from public notice. But notwithstanding the embarrassing circumstances under which it has existed, the highly satisfactory results have given us every reason to expect such aid and support from the benevolent, as will enable us to secure permanently convenient and public rooms." Relying on this, we shall persevere in the enterprise.

Two or more physicians will be in attendance for one hour or more each day in the week, Sundays excepted.

With a view to draw public attention to the Institution, and to obtain for it the aid which will ensure its extended and permanent usefulness, we make the following report of the results of the treatment during the first 16 months.

DISEASES TREATED.						No. of Cases.	Cured.	Under treatment.	Not known and discontin'd.
Amenorrhœa	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	
Apthæ	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		
Anasarca	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	
Ascites	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	
Asthma	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	1	
Angina	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	
Blepharites	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	11	8	1	2
Catarrhus acutus	-	-	-	-	-	9	9		
Catarrhus chronicus	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	1	
Cephalagia	-	-	-	-	-	9	9		
Cholera infantum	-	-	-	-	-	5	5		
Cholera morbus	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Chorea	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		
Colica	-	-	-	-	-	4	4		
Constipation	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	2	
Cough chronic	-	-	-	-	-	13	11	2	
Cynanche tonsillaris	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	2	
Cystitis	-	-	-	-	-	1		1	
Dentition	-	-	-	-	-	3	3		
Diarrhœa	-	-	-	-	-	7	7		
Dysenteria	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Dysmenorrhœa	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	
Diarrhœa with prolapsus ani	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Dyspepsia	-	-	-	-	-	20	17	3	
Dyspnœa	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Dysuria	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		
Determination of blood to head	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Enuresis	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	
Enuresis nocturna	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		
Enteralgia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		
Eruptions cutaneous	-	-	-	-	-	19	14	5	
Febris	-	-	-	-	-	7	7		
Furunculus	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Gastralgia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Gastritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Gonorrhœa	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	
Heart, affection of	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	2	
Hepatitis chronicus	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	2	
Hæmorrhoids	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	2	
Hepatalgia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Hysteria	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Icterus	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Inflammation of frontal sinus	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Inflammation of knee	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Inflammation of lungs	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	4	4		
Insanity	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	(1 died)	
Injury mechanical	-	-	-	-	-	4	4		
Incipient phthisis	-	-	-	-	-	8	6	1	1
Laryngitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Lying in (fever)	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Leucorrhœa	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Megrim	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		
Menorrhagia	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		
Menoposia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		



DISEASES TREATED.						No. of Cases.	Cured.	Under treatment.	Not known and discontin'd.
Necrosis of femur	-	-	-	-	-	1		1	
Neuralgia faciei	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	1	
pedis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	1		1	
Onychia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Odontalgia	-	-	-	-	-	3	3		
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	10	7	3	
Otorrhœa	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	
Paralysis	-	-	-	-	-	3		2	1
Palpitatio cordis	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	
Pleuralgia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Pleuritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Pemphigus	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Prolapsus ani	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		
Pertussis	-	-	-	-	-	8	8		
Prolapsus uteri	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	
Prosopalgia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Prurigo pudendi	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Phthisis pulmonalis	-	-	-	-	-	*7		3	3
Rheumatismus	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	1	
chronicus	-	-	-	-	-	11	7	3	1
mercurialis	-	-	-	-	-	1			1
syphiliticus	-	-	-	-	-	2	1		1
Scrophula	-	-	-	-	-	2	2		
Salivation mercurial	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Spasms	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Spinal irritation	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	1	1
Sore leg	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	
Stricture of urethra chronic	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Syphilis	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	1	
Spasm of the eye lid	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Tinia facialis	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	
capitis	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1
Varicella	-	-	-	-	-	4	4		
Varices	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Vermes (worms)	-	-	-	-	-	6	6		
* 1 died						331	262	56	12

From the above report it will be perceived, that out of the whole number (331) who entered the dispensary for treatment, 262 have been discharged cured.

This report will be published in a pamphlet with a list of donors and yearly subscribers, and a copy furnished for each. Annual reports will hereafter be made.

S. R. KIRBY, M.D.      P. P. WELLS, M.D.  
 S. B. BARLOW, M.D.    JAS. M. QUIN, M.D.  
 EDWARD BAYARD, M.D. GEO. W. COOK, M.D.  
 B. F. JOSLIN, M.D.    R. A. SNOW, M.D.  
 B. F. BOWERS, M.D.   JAS. HART ALLEN, M.D.

#### HOMŒOPATHIC REGIMEN.

The cures by Homœopathia are sometimes attributed to regimen. This shows ignorance of the subject. Homœopathy allows a better and far more nourishing diet to the sick, than Allopathia. The regimen is based upon strict physiological and therapeutic principles. It admits such articles of food as are adapted to the nature of man; it prohibits such articles as are of a medicinal nature; especially when known to be liable to disturb or antidote the effects of the medicines employed. It is adapted to the demands of the appetite in sickness. (An abnormal or vitiated appetite is often an indication for a remedy, and is corrected by it.) It prohibits stimulating drinks and condiments, but rarely such as would be proper or necessary for persons in health. The homœo-

pathist does not impose unnecessary restrictions, but conforms to known physiological laws; a due observance of which is essential to restore and preserve health.

On this subject Hahnemann remarks generally as follows:

It is requisite, in the homœopathic treatment, that everything which exercises a medicinal influence on the patient, should be removed from his *regimen and mode of life*, in order that the effects of the medicines may not be destroyed, overpowered or disturbed, by any foreign stimulant.

In chronic diseases more especially, it is important to remove all obstacles of this nature with the greatest care.

Such for example, as by coffee, teas of all the different kinds, or beer containing vegetable substances that are unfit for the patient, liquors (cordials,) especially those prepared from medicinal aromatics, all kinds of punch, spiced chocolate, sweet waters and perfumery of all kinds, odorous flowers in the room, preparations for the teeth either in powder or liquid wherein medicinal substances are included, perfumed bags, strongly seasoned viands and sauces, pastry and ice cream with aromatics, pot herbs, culinary greens, or roots containing medicinal properties, old cheese or butter, stale meat, the flesh and fat of swine, geese and ducks, young veal, or acids. All excesses at table are to be interdicted, even in the use of sugar and salt, as well as of spirituous liquors, hot rooms, flannel worn next to the skin. (Flannel must not be left off until warm weather, and then exchanged for cotton, and afterwards for linen.) The physician will likewise forbid a sedentary life in close rooms, passive exercise, (by riding or driving, swinging and rocking in chairs,) sleeping too long after dinner, nocturnal occupations, uncleanliness, unnatural voluptuousness, and the reading of obscene books, the occasions of anger, grief, and malice, a passion for gaming, excessive mental and bodily labour, a residence in a marshy situation, or in a chamber that is not properly ventilated, penurious living, &c. &c. All practicable care should be observed by the patient to avoid all these forbidden things, in order that no impediment may be interposed which would render the cure difficult or impossible. Some of my adherents appear to exact too much from their patients, by unnecessarily and improperly excluding from their diet things indifferent.

The most suitable regimen in chronic diseases consists in removing every thing which might impede the cure, and by bringing about an opposite state, where it is necessary, by recommending innocent cheerfulness, exercise in the open air, in almost all weathers (daily walks, light manual labor,) aliments that are suitable, nourishing, and free from medicinal influence, &c. &c.

On the other hand, in acute diseases (mental alienation excepted) the preservative instinct of the vital power speaks in so clear and and precise a manner, that the physician has only to recommend to the family or nurses of the patient not to thwart nature by refusing

the patient any thing he may long for, or by trying to persuade him to take things that might do him injury.

The food and drink demanded by a patient labouring under an acute disease, act for the most part as palliatives only, and can at farthest effect momentary relief; but they contain no real medicinal qualities, and are merely conformable to a species of desire on his part. Provided the gratification which they, in this respect, procure the patient, be *confined within proper limits*, the slight obstacles which they could place in the way of a radical cure of the disease are more than covered by the influence of the homœopathic remedy, by the greater extent of liberty given to the vital powers, and the ease and satisfaction that follow the possession of any object that is ardently desired. In acute diseases, the temperature of the chamber as well as the quantity of bed-covering should likewise be regulated according to the wishes of the patient; likewise care is to be taken to remove every thing that could disturb his mental repose.

Guided by those principles, the diet usually prescribed by the homœopathic physician is:

In acute diseases, for drink, pure water, milk and water, water sweetened with pure sugar; toasted bread in water, provided it be not toasted too much, or sometimes when the appetite or taste requires it, water with the addition of the syrup of raspberries, strawberries, apple juice, &c. Boiling water may be poured upon dried fruit, such as apples, peaches, or plums, and allowed to cool. And when desirable to administer nourishment with the drink, barley-water, rice-water, thin corn or oatmeal gruel, and similar farinaceous substances may be given.

(Gum arabic, arrowroot, tapioca, sago, salep, &c. should be procured from the homœopathic pharmacies or from the grocer, as in drug shops they are kept in so close proximity with crude drugs, as to be impregnated with them; and when procured from the druggist, they should always be washed in boiling water.)

As the acute forms, or symptoms of the disease subside, the patient may be allowed, as his appetite calls for, a more nourishing diet, but it should still be simple and such as is easily digested, viz:

Bread and cakes of corn, oatmeal, wheat, buckwheat flour, (with sugar, eggs, a little butter,) and without spices, potash, soda, and other alkalies; puddings of flour, meal, rice, and non-medicated or unspiced farinaceous substances; hominy, Indian mush and the like; fresh eggs, custards, new and mild cheese; ice cream with the syrup of strawberries and other allowed fruits. (Milk, such as obtained in the



city, should be boiled, unless known to be pure. Butter should be fresh and sparingly used. Cocoa, unsuiced chocolate and black tea are allowed, but water and milk are recommended in preference.)

#### ALIMENT GENERALLY ALLOWED.

Besides the foregoing enumerated articles :

Soups and broths slightly seasoned, of beef, mutton, chickens, and such animal and vegetable substances as are allowed.

Ripe and sweet fruits, raw or cooked, as grapes, apples, cherries, peaches, strawberries, figs, raisins. Dried fruits, as currants, prunes, and apples. (Fruit should be avoided in colic and diarrhœa. Fruits, such as apples and pears, should be pared and the skins of grapes, figs, &c., avoided.)

Potatoes, turnips, cabbage, green and dried peas and beans. (Such vegetables as are of an astringent or medicinal character should be avoided, as horse-radish, pickles, onions, celery, asparagus, tomatoes, parsnips, radishes, &c.)

Beef, mutton, the lean part of ham well freshened ; chickens, turkeys, pigeons, venison and other wild game.

Fresh scale fish ; salt fish, when allowed by the physician, well freshened and eaten in small quantities.

Any article of diet, especially if it be of a doubtful or objectionable kind, that does not agree with the individual, should be avoided.

#### ALIMENT GENERALLY OBJECTIONABLE.

Old smoked salt meat, and salt fish, veal, geese, ducks ; the liver, heart, lungs or tripe of animals.

Rancid butter, old strong cheese, lard, fat pork, sausages, turtles.

Fish without scales, as cat-fish and eels ; lobsters, crabs, and soups prepared from them.

All kinds of nuts unless allowed by the physician.

Colored confectionary.

The flesh of all young animals.

Highly seasoned soups, sauces, and melted butter. Cakes prepared with fat and aromatics.

Cider, vinegar, salads or cucumbers prepared with vinegar ; sauer-kraut, and pickles.

Green tea, coffee, wines, spirituous or malt liquors, acid drinks, and lemonade. Natural and artificial mineral waters.

All kinds of spices, pepper, mustard, ginger, cloves, cinnamon, nutmegs, vanilla, aromatics.

Musk, hartshorn, camphor.

Herbs of all kinds ; fennel or anniseed, sage, saffron, &c.

Tobacco, in many cases, should be entirely abstained from. Its use, when permitted, should be moderate.

Colored toys and confectionary should be kept from children.

Meals should be eaten at regular intervals and never in such quantities as to overload the stomach, nor of such variety as to impede its functions. The diet of nursing infants under treatment, should not be changed, and the mother should observe the foregoing rules as to her own regimen.

Perfumery, aromatic substances, odorous plants and the like, should be excluded from the sick room, and avoided by those under treatment.

The occupation of the body and the mind should be such as naturally tends to strengthen the one, and relax and gratify the other. Exercise when the strength and other circumstances will permit, is an absolute condition to health, and when practicable, it should be regularly had in the open air.

Medicinal agents, herb drinks, the external application of salves, poultices, and medicated waters or baths should be used only as the prescription of a physician. The use of baths generally should be directed by a physician.

Tooth washes and powders should never be used. The sugar of milk may be substituted for the ordinary tooth powder.

Cotton, linen, or silk, should be worn next to the skin, and if flannel is employed, it should be worn over these articles. The amount of clothing should be adapted to the temperature and its changes, and to the habits or employment of individuals. Children should be accustomed daily to exercise in the open air, as well as to the use of cool washings ; in this way they may be inured to the weather, and (with proper medical treatment), become hardy and strong, and free from susceptibility to colds and attacks of acute disease.

The air of sleeping apartments should be frequently changed, and the temperature carefully regulated. As a general rule, stoves should not be kept in sleeping rooms.

The fumes of matches, coal and other gases should be avoided.

Medicines in chronic cases, should be taken one hour before or from two to three hours after breakfast, unless directed by the physician to be taken at bed time. Rest should be observed for some time after taking a remedy.

The medicines in powders should be kept from the light, in a clean and cool place, free from any medicinal or scented substances.

## BROMINE IN CROUP.

BY W. E. PAYNE M.D., BATH, ME.

MESSRS EDITORS :—

In part, to fulfil my promise to give you something for your Journal, but mainly to present the following subject to my medical brethren is the object in detailing the following case from my practice. From the prominent characteristics in *Bromine*, it must be evident to every homœopath, that in it lies a power which is to render the frightful assaults of *Croup*, much less to be dreaded than formerly. Though *Bromine* points so directly to tracheal membranous inflammation, I have not seen a case reported wherein it was used; and this induces me to present to the profession, the result of its application in one case; and with it, to express a hope that those who may have used it, will make known the result.

Experience alone is to settle the question of its utility, and point out the orbit of its action, by repeated trials of the drug on the healthy body, and by making a minute record of the symptoms on which the drug has exerted a curative effect. We shall thus learn the comprehensiveness of its activity, and use it, and only when it is required.

Of all the great men of the medical world, from the first cultivation of the art down to the present moment, Hahnemann I consider the greatest. A mind organized to receive a truth of such magnitude, surrounded as it was by the *Ignes fatui* of a science almost universally believed to be true, with firmness enough to withstand the approbrium of the medical world, almost to a man, and for a time the interdictions of governmental authority, could not be less than the greatest among the great. It must have been a firm consciousness of possessing the truth, and an unwavering determination to go wherever the truth might lead, that enabled Hahnemann to stand up in the might of human independence and defy the powers of error and insolence that beset him on every hand. The combined errors of centuries could not crush him, for the simple truth sustained him. But truth is eternal—its origin is in nothing less than infinity itself, and therefore can never be fully comprehended by finite man. It is by a succession of steps that man is led into a knowledge of truth, and *that* knowledge, is perfected in the same progressive order, whether it be with in-

dividual man, or man collectively. To-day, though our perception of truth be dim, if our eye is steady and impartial, to-morrow the dusky outlines will present an aspect more definite, and as we progress, the resolving clouds will present more and more of the beauty, the order and the power of truth. It is not, to Hahnemann that we are to look for the *perfection* of that great truth of which he was a medium to the world; it is sufficient that he has fixed our eyes upon the *true light*—that he has enabled us to distinguish the *beacon*, from the *innumerable false lights* that dazzle in the *quagmires* of medical science. The goal is in the distance, and it can be won, only by incessant toil. The way is still uneven, and beset by a menacing foe; and it is our duty to labor to render the high road more passable to those who are to come after us, by removing those obstacles which make to the eyes of the world, the result of the conflict between us and our foes uncertain. To us who are engaged in the conflict, the result cannot be doubtful; armed as we are with truth, allopathy, though it has the apparent vigor of centuries to sustain it, must fall in the contest, albeit its last groans may be reserved for the ears of generations who are to come after us.

To bring forth into vigorous activity the homœopathic art, the first and main thing is the study of drugs. In this, lies the ultimate and universal triumph of homœopathy. Much may be done by reported cases; if it is worth our while to make a faithful and minute record of cases for our own future reference and benefit, it is certainly important that other eyes than ours should see them. By this means we are often enabled to determine, the curative as well as the recorded pathogenetic effect of drugs, and "to demonstrate the curative power of remedies in symptoms not before observed" or developed.

I think much might be said in favor of reporting cases from practice if properly done, but this article is already too far extended to say more here. I will merely remark that, in my opinion, much of the published therapeutics of homœopathy, is not worth a straw: for example, a large proportion of the cases in Rückert's work, are not worth to the practitioner, the value of the paper on which they are printed; he cannot derive anything of practical utility from such reports—they are too vague for the accurate demands of homœopathy.



I believe a drug must not only *correspond symptomatically*, but also *pathologically* to the state of the organism, in order to be homœopathic in its strict and curative sense. A drug that will develop a combination of symptoms, in every most minute particular, such as is developed by that abnormal condition of the organism denominated *tubercular phthisis*, will also develop a tubercular condition of the lungs if its use is persevered in, till the organism yields to its often repeated and persevering assaults. As surely as a drug disease will affect disorganization of the body, so surely will a drug corresponding *symptomatically* to *tubercular phthisis*, affect a development of tubercles, which may be pushed on to a state of inflammation and suppuration, and eventually to that degree of disorganization when the life of the body must become extinct. I think this may be abundantly proved from the facts already gathered from the effects of drugs on the human organism, as it may be seen to belong to the category of deductions which must be legitimately drawn from the premises from which we start. This subject, however, requires a more elaborate notice than it can receive here. Some future time may be devoted to the illustration.

The following case of croup I am induced to transcribe for the eyes of my medical brethren, not knowing that any case has ever been reported wherein *Bromine* proved its adaptability to tracheal membranous inflammation.

CASE.—A female child two years old, was seized on the evening of Sept. 26th, with difficult breathing, and hoarse and rough cough. The father came to me for medicine and received *Hep. 2.* two powders, one of which was to be given immediately, and the other in 4 hours if not relieved. On the following day, at noon, was requested to see the child, as the breathing was much worse. I was told that the child slept tolerably well the latter part of the night; and that during the morning there was a marked remission of all the symptoms, so much so, that the child was thought to be much better. Towards noon, however, the oppressed breathing again revived, and the cough, though not frequent, was rough and tearing. The respiration was wheezing or rattling. Not then deeming it a case of tracheal membranous inflammation, I prescribed *Phos.* to be followed at a specified period with *Sambucus* if not relieved. The symptoms, I thought, pointed

strongly to those drugs, and I confidently looked for relief from one or the other. In this however I was disappointed. In the night I was again called, and observed the following combination of symptoms. The difficulty of breathing had much increased. The child threw herself about in great anguish. Sweat stood in drops upon the face and forehead. There was alternate elevation and depression of the breast, from the labor of breathing. The head inclined backwards. The muscles of the anterior part of the neck, were violently exercised—producing a great depression at the throat-pit. The abdominal muscles were drawn up. Breathing, wheezing and rattling, irregular, alternately slow and suffocative, hurried and superficial. Temperature of the body unequal and frequently changing. At times the head and hands would be hot, while the rest of the body would be cool and moist; at times the reverse of this would obtain. Sneezing, nose-dry. Considerable saliva. Tongue coated white. Child carried its hands to its neck as if in pain. Thirsty. Pulse quick, frequent, easily compressed, and at times the pulsation would so run into each other as to be numbered with difficulty; at other times they could be numbered quite well. *Kali Bich.* 6 given with no benefit. *Brom.* 3.—immediate relief, with rapid subsidence of all the symptoms. The following day *Brom.* was repeated every 8th hour for the cough and rattling respiration. This disappeared in the course of 48 hours.

#### HOMŒOPATHY IN ARKANSAS.

Washington, April 1st, 1847.

MESSRS EDITORS :—

The following loud “voice from Arkansas,” is an extract of a letter received a few days since, from an old and valued friend, to whom I have occasionally sent a pamphlet on the subject of Homœopathy, and in this instance you see the result of those silent missionaries of truth. May not much good be done by every one of our school by sending to those who do not believe with us that Homœopathy is founded upon a rock, some dissertation or lecture upon our science. But let the letter speak for itself—it is verbatim.

Respectfully &c.,

J. R. PIPER, M.D.

Hempstead Co. Ark. 28 Feb. 1845.

My dear Friend :—

“You mentioned in your last letter that you hated apologies, and as I also dislike to

waste paper in making them, I will proceed in the first place to offer my grateful acknowledgments for your kindness in sending me the pamphlet on the subject of Homœopathy, and to assure you that you could not have done me a greater favor. I have scarcely noticed any thing else since you commenced sending them and I am so much pleased with the doctrines contained, the undeniable truths advocated, and the systematic rules laid down, for a faithful and successful discharge of professional duty, that my mind absolutely hungers and thirsts for more light upon the subject. I confess that the subject was entirely new to me, and knowing that you would send nothing to me uninteresting, I at first read them with surprise, and great pleasure, derived from the ample evidence of all the facts being obtained from experimental inquiry and divulged by men who have taken rank in the lists of fame. You will perhaps laugh at the fact, but I am again a close and hard student. I have entered upon the study of the Hahnemannian art of healing, with a degree of pleasure unknown to me at any time during my long sojourn in the guessing or allopathic school (for such it truly is,) and if I succeed not in attaining the art, I will cease risking my peace of mind and bodily ease by following old rules. I shall send on in a short time for such works as will aid me in reducing to practice such rules as are laid down, and hope that you will occasionally (pro re nata) lend a hand in aiding a mind somewhat blunted by fifty-eight years of exercise, and dulled by its attachment to doctrines which I now believe to be altogether hypothetical. I cannot easily see how it is possible for an acute homœopath to err in the treatment of disease, without being sensible of his error before it can do harm—there is no guess-work in the matter. If he be a tolerably good pharmacopœist and a close investigator of causes, remote and proximate, and a good observer of symptoms, if he should err in the remedy, it appears that the error must consist more in its proper attenuation than the kind selected.\* Your sect possess another advantage over the old school. It appears difficult to attain a fair degree of proficiency in homœopathy without being well acquainted with the allopathic systems or in other words, skill is acquired by first navigating the dangerous whirls of scylla and carybdis."

\* Not altogether right.—J. R. P.

From the Evening Post.

## DR. STEARNS AND THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

The New York Commercial Advertiser of the 8th inst. contains a notice of "Dr. Stearns' Inaugural Address before the New York Academy of Medicine, published by order of the Academy," and pronounces it "a manly and sensible performance." An extract is given to "show the estimate placed by the venerable president of our academy upon homœopathy, upon which he speaks with all the vigor and vivacity of his youth."

The estimate thus publicly placed by the venerable president of "our academy" upon homœopathy, sanctioned by the academy, commended and circulated by a respectable journal, becomes from these circumstances an interesting document. I shall therefore endeavor to give it a respectable consideration, which, under other circumstances, would be unnecessary.

The venerable president cannot believe the doctrines taught by Hahnemann, because they are contrary to reason. He says, "reason teaches me that the power of any remedial agent essentially depends on the number of grains, ounces or pounds, of which that agent consists." As I cannot understand this statement in any sense which makes it true, I must be permitted to ask for an explanation of its meaning. If by power is meant the capability of acting upon the animal organism, irrespective of the kind of effect produced, whether salutary or injurious, the statement is not true; for in this respect it is well known that quality is more essential than quantity. The inherent quality of prussic acid and its relation to the animal economy, makes an ounce of prussic acid vastly more powerful than an ounce of castor oil, although the quantities are equal.

If by "the power of a remedial agent" its remedial power is intended, the statement is not true; for it is well known that discretion and sound judgment are required in adapting the dose to the peculiarities of the case. Half a drop of prussic acid may be remedial, when an ounce would instantly destroy life. So of the most common drugs, it is not true that their remedial power is increased in a direct proportion to the increased "number of grains, ounces or pounds" taken; small doses may cure the patient when ounces or pounds of the same drug would inevitably cause his death. The



subject of doses is an important one, and I would respectfully enquire whether the academy intend by the above proposition of their venerable president to prescribe the limits of doses, putting the minimum at a grain, the medium at one or two ounces, and the maximum of a "regular" dose at one or two pounds. It is to be regretted that the academy seems to have adopted the views of Dr. Brandeth on this subject, as set forth in advertising Brandeth's Pills. He says, "if one pill does good, two pills will do more good; the more pills you take the more good they will do you; if any body is not cured by taking these pills, it is because they have not taken enough of them; which being generalized and translated into the scientific language of our academy becomes this identical proposition. The power of any remedial agent essentially depends on the number of grains, ounces or pounds of which that agent consists."

I am happy to assure the public that the practice of intelligent physicians, of whatever school, is not so bad as might be inferred from this statement of a fundamental principle. Experience teaches them the danger of being governed by any such theoretical speculations, and they are themselves ready to admit that many a poor patient gets cured to death by over-dosing. "*Nullum remedium nisi quod tempestivo usu fiat*,"—there is no remedy except that which becomes so by seasonable use—is a received medical maxim.

The illustration given in the relative effects of a large or small quantity of gunpowder, steam, and all other agents of similar power, which the Doctor cites as very analagous, shows a total want of discrimination between remedial and destructive power. The rifle-man, who with unerring aim hits the mark, is careful to select powder of the particular quality suited to his rifle, and learns by experience the quantity necessary to propel the ball the required distance with the requisite force. A person ignorant of these necessary precautions, and intent only upon increasing the power, might load to the muzzle, burst the gun, "and produce great destruction of human life," and might be considered a "dead shot," but not a good marksman.

The ignoramus, usurping the place of the engineer, may fasten down the safety valves and put on the steam with all zeal in the expectation of making a quick passage, and the Academy, if they look to the amount of power

as the only thing requisite to a safe voyage, may embark, but I would kindly warn them not to go in that boat; experience has shown that there is great danger in such a course. I fear they will burst their boiler.

Hahnemann has never forbidden "his pupils to reason or theorize on his principles," and never has asserted any such nonsense as Dr. Stearns attributes to him. Believing with undoubting faith, that the benevolent Creator has wisely arranged the laws of nature, with a humility characteristic of true greatness, he has felt it to be his province by the careful observation of facts, to inquire what is the natural constitution of things, rather than to attempt, by any effort of mere reason, to determine what it ought to be. In this good work he labored with untiring zeal, and his labors were rewarded with glorious success.

And now I would ask Dr. Stearns and the academy, what right have you to accuse Hahnemann of an "express purpose to practice deception and imposition upon the credulity and prejudices of the community?" What reason have you to assert that "poisons and narcotics constitute the corner-stone of the homœopathic edifice?" Dare you assert that homœopaths use greater quantities, or more concentrated and dangerous forms of poisonous and narcotic substances, than allopathists use? Dare you even pretend that we use them in as concentrated forms as they are habitually used by you? What reason have you to assert that "the alleviation of pain by narcotics gives to their (homœopathic) practice all its popularity?" That homœopathy is popular, and that our practice alleviates pain and cures the patient, is true. Your testimony to this point is good; but the assertion that the alleviation of pain is procured by narcotics is false, and I challenge you to the proof. How dare you assert that if a man attempts to practice upon the principles of homœopathy "he must possess a most depraved moral faculty?" Do you know that homœopathic practice impairs health, destroy life, and must necessarily impair the usefulness of the clergy as guides to eternal happiness, if they patronize it? What has constituted you defenders of the faith and guardians of "our holy religion," with authority to school the clergy in the discharge of their peculiar professional duties? This high-handed attempt to overawe the clergy and all religious men, to defame and ostracise homœopathic practitioners looks more like a conspiracy to destroy the

reputation of successful rivals, than like an honest, honorable effort to promote the truth. I deny your premises, I deny your conclusions and I call for your proofs.

B. F. BOWERS, M.D.

DR. C. M. DAKE of GENESEO Livingston Co. N. Y. writes us, that "the popular voice is declaring in favor of our system in this county." Dr. D. has practiced allopathy six years, and homœopathy five years; and is a Hahnemanian "pure and unmixed;" declaring himself established by actual experience in the truth of that system.

Wherever "pure and unmixed" homœopathy is employed in the treatment of the sick, a favorable result is certain—experience has proved this the world over. A mixed practice as it is termed, can receive no countenance from us, for generally it is allopathy with another name.

#### AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

We take this early opportunity of reminding our homœopathic brethren, that the fourth anniversary of the American Institute, holds its session in Boston on the second Tuesday in June next; and we earnestly hope that all physicians of our school, laying aside all business and excuses, will be in attendance at that meeting. The interchange of opinion formed upon our practice in the different parts of the Union must not only be interesting, but highly useful to the profession.

#### PRIZE FOUNDED BY M. G. DANSI, OF MILAN.

The homœopathic Congress of Paris, will award a prize, at its second session in 1848, to the best memoir on the following subject:

In what degree of dynamization do homœopathic medicines possess the greatest power in the treatment of acute as well as chronic diseases? Point out the characters of morbid conditions indicating the employment of one dynamization in preference to others.

What of the repetition of homœopathic doses?

A medal of gold of the value of 500 francs will be decreed to the successful memoir.

#### PRIZE FOUNDED BY COUNT DES GUIDI OF LYONS.

Demonstrate by reasonings and by facts that the science and the art of curing, have never been definitively fixed, in their principles and methods of action, except by homœopathy. A medal of gold of the value of 300 francs will be awarded to the successful memoir.

The memoirs must be transmitted, post paid to Dr. Leon Simon, general secretary of the Hahnemanian Society of Paris, Rue Neuve des Mathurins No. 9, before the 1st July, 1848; none will be received after.—*Hom. Ex.*

#### JAHR'S NEW MANUAL.

We have received from Mr. Radde Mo 3 of this publication. Orders for the work may be sent to Wm. Radde 322 Broadway, J. T. S. Smith 488 Broadway, C. L. Rademacher 39 North Fourth St. Philadelphia, Otis Clapp Boston, and to Franksen & Wesselhoeft St Louis Mo., by whom the profession may be supplied with numbers as they are issued from the press.—Price 50 cts, each number containing 96 pages.

#### HOMŒOPATHIC COFFEE.

This is a substitute for coffee, made of non-medicinal vegetable. It is a pleasant beverage, and must be very acceptable to those who do not wish to be deprived of something like coffee while under homœopathic treatment. To prepare it, you mix one teaspoonful of the preparation with a cup full of boiling water, and let the two boil together for fifteen minutes; then sweeten the preparation to your taste and drink it, with milk.—For sale by W. Radde, 322 Broadway.—*Hom. Ex.*

Subscribers to this Journal are informed that the most convenient mode of remittance to us is, to pay the amount to the Post master of their town or city.

The name of C. H. Skiff, M.D., of New Haven Ct., should have been published in the list of members of the "American Institute of Homœopathy."



The friends of Homœopathy in Philadelphia can have this Journal delivered at their houses, on the day of publication, by leaving their names with C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North Fourth Street.

#### BONNINGHAUSEN'S THERAPEUTIC POCKET-BOOK.

Just received, a few copies of "Bonninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket-Book for Homœopathists; to be used at the bedside of the patient and in the study of the *Materia Medica*." Edited by A. Howard Okie, M.D., translator of "Hartmann's Remedies," "Ruoff's Repertory," &c. &c.

For sale at SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY, 488 Broadway. Price \$1.25.

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

#### SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY AT THE Apollo Rooms, 410 Broadway. Open daily (Sunday excepted,) at 12, M.

Physicians in attendance, Mondays and Thursdays, Drs. Kirby and Barlow; Tuesdays, Drs. Cook and Snow; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Drs. Quin and Bowers; Fridays, Drs. Bayard and Allen.

#### CLEVELAND HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Up stairs, corner Superior st. and Public Square. B. H. BARTLETT respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines; Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Hering's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's *Materia Medica*, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.





